

July  
2020

# AAGT

Association for the  
Advancement of  
Gestalt Therapy



An International Community

*This is a fully interactive edition of the newsletter.  
Please click the boxes to access more information  
on the content that interests you!*

## Spotlighting the Undercurrents of Discrimination

[Please Click HERE to read a special message from the AAGT Board of Directors](#)



The importance of informed decisions and opinions is paramount. Although Black Lives Matter is an organization, it is also a movement, a truth, an exigency.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



# AAGT will not host a conference in 2020



The Edges of Exile and Belonging conference will instead be our 2022 conference, which is scheduled to take place **May 17 – 22, 2022** in **County Clare, Ireland!**

[For more information on this change, please Click HERE](#)

Yes folks- the show goes on...

*You are invited to:*

**AAGT's Online Cabaret and Céilí\***

*\*pronounced 'kay- lee'*

**An Evening of Fun, Heart and Soulfulness**

*(as opposed to Slickness!)*

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

**9.00pm – 11.00pm (BST)**

**We need your input and participation!**

[For more information on attending and contributing, Click HERE](#)

# The AAGT 2020 Annual General Meeting is Going Virtual in September 2020

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN ORDER TO VOTE ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE AAGT CONSTITUTION AND BOARD POSITIONS!

To join or renew, please [Click HERE](#)

This year, we will be meeting as a membership virtually to conduct our Annual General Meeting over two days. The meeting will be held via ZOOM on

Saturday & Sunday  
September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

Los Angeles: 7:00am to 3:00pm  
New York: 10:00am to 6:00pm  
London: 3:00pm to 11:00pm  
Jerusalem: 5:00pm to 1:00am  
Beijing: 10:00pm to 6:00am

Sunday & Monday  
September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Sydney: 12:00am to 8:00am  
Auckland: 2:00am to 10:00am

## FROM THE 2020 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Hello, dear colleagues,

We are pleased to present the names and statements of all who have accepted nominations for Board Offices elected by the Membership. We encourage you to view our attachments as due to the extraordinary circumstances of a virtual election across time zones, there will be limited time for each candidate to present themselves to the members.

It is still possible for you to nominate another or yourself between now and the AGM. The list of open elected Board positions and their responsibilities is attached. Also, please read the New Board Member document to view the expectations and responsibilities of being a Board member. (Our e-mail addresses: [marlene@aagt.org](mailto:marlene@aagt.org), [gail13feinstein@aol.com](mailto:gail13feinstein@aol.com))

If you are interested in being considered for a Board appointed position, please e-mail our President, Tali Bar-Yoseph Levine at [Talia@aagt.org](mailto:Talia@aagt.org) by August 10th. The list of open appointed Board positions is attached. See you all online in September!

Sending warm wishes for safety and well-being,

*Gayla Feinstein, Marlene Blumenthal, Charlie Bowman, Nickei Falconer, Piotr Mierkowski, Eduardo Rubio Ramirez, and Ansel Woldt*

[~Open elected positions](#)

[~Current slate for AAGT board elected positions](#)

[~Statements from currently slated candidates](#)

[~Open board appointed positions](#)

[~Board member orientation](#)

**For more information on the AGM and Elections, please Click HERE**

# From the AAGT President

In a letter of reflections, the AAGT President, Tali Bar-Yoseph Levine writes:

“The past few months have been characterised by a massive use of words and diminishing choices. For many of us the physically active part of life was (for some still is) minimised. The field enforces upon us a whole new ball game. A new given takes discomfort, fear, ‘not knowing’, physical limitations and adapting to new ways of being to a new level. Three dimensional meetings turned into encounters on a flat screen is one symbolic expression. An opportunity to become well acquainted with modern digital life - indeed, entailing lack of choice and huge adaptations for Gestalt beings. The balance keeps shifting between in and out, face to face to virtual, right, and wrong, what was, was planned ahead and what is. The past, can no longer be a reference, a hook to hang experiences on, the present demands sitting in/with/at the void and surrender. The notion alerting us to premature closure of Gestalts is most helpful to hold on to yet, more demanding than ever.

On May 25th George Floyd was murdered...”

[To read the full reflection, Click HERE](#)



## Power and Privilege

In response to the murder of **George Floyd** in America on 25th May 2020 and subsequent global responses, by **Black Lives Matter** activists and thousands of others. A collective coming together. Tali is initiating a series of talks and webinars that are being run **for the members by the members**.

[For more information, please click HERE](#)

[To register, please Click HERE](#)

# From the AAGT Research Liaison

In an open letter to the AAGT Membership regarding research, Mark writes...

“Research is a term that likely evokes many different images, from exciting and inspiring discoveries to sterile and cold laboratories. Oftentimes, research is set as a counterpoint to practice, with the struggle and conflict of the relationship between these areas having been well documented in the literature. In a myriad of ways, we, as those who work within a gestalt approach, have likely felt that struggle and been negatively impacted by it.

And, yet, research has so much to offer our gestalt community...”

[To read the entire letter, Click HERE](#)



Greetings all!

We continue to find ourselves in the midst of significant struggles and challenges. Whether the focus is on the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-black racism and other systemic oppressions, ongoing ecological and global climate concerns, or something else, what is shared is the suffering and distress facing all of us in different ways and to varying degrees. Continued reliance on community and interpersonal connections remains vital, despite the difficulties that physical and social distancing present. And for those who rely on us -- whether through therapy, consultation, coaching, teaching, supervision, community organizing, etc. -- our continued engagement with our gestalt approach with how it is, how it develops, how it changes, and how it crystallizes remains important.

Given all of this, it is my hope that you will take the time to read the open letter in this newsletter, which was collaborated upon by the newly-resurfaced AAGT research committee and consider your own relationship to and role with research, in whatever way that may appear. Furthermore, please consider how many of the themes, ideas, and perspectives from that open letter can be broadened or applied in other areas of your practice and your life, not just research. Indeed, we all find ourselves in a time for reassessing, reviewing, and recommitting ourselves to the richness of living and our relationships.

Not mentioned in the open letter, though important to acknowledge, is that AAGT is a cosponsor for the **5th International Gestalt Research Conference**, which is scheduled for 24-26 September 2021 in Hamburg, Germany. Please consider the call for papers and other information found in this newsletter regarding the conference.

As the open letter notes, the AAGT research committee has many exciting ideas that it is hoping to present for the benefit of all involved. Some ideas and initiatives in the works involve an **online research colloquium series** using the offerings that would have been available at the research posters dialogue at the Ireland conference and a restructuring of the **research fund** to assist members with their contributions to the overall research movement. Further news and updates about these opportunities will be shared as they continue their development.

So, please, do not forget to love each other and find ways to be in community with each other.

Peace be with you,

Mark





# AAGT GLOBAL - From Our Members



## GATLA 2021

50th Anniversary Summer European Residentials  
Couples: July 11-17, 2021  
Gestalt: July 18-30, 2021  
Lithuania



### "A Couple of Individuals"

Individual and Couples Therapy films plus resources for the Resnick's model of relationships, coupling and Couples Therapy.  
From a *fusion* model to a *connection* model.



### GATLA



ONGOING  
GESTALT  
TRAINING  
SIX WEEKENDS  
LOS ANGELES

For more information, click the boxes

Please submit to the  
International Conference on  
Research in Gestalt Therapy by  
15 September!

This prestigious conference will  
take place in Hamburg,  
Germany, 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>  
September 2021

For more information, please  
[Click HERE](#)

Born of an interest in preserving the lived  
experience of being with our colleagues,  
mentors, and friends in Gestalt, as well as a  
deep curiosity of those we have not met,  
Humans of Gestalt would like to invite the  
international Gestalt community to get to  
know one another better.

For more information, Click [HERE](#)

The Belgian Gestalt Institute IVC is Offering  
Masterclasses beginning April 2021!

For more information, Click [HERE](#)

Recommended reading from our members

The values of connection: A relational  
approach to ethics – Robert G. Lee

Pain and Possibility – Catharine Hormats

The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland is  
Offering New Virtual Training & Coaching  
Sessions!

July 22<sup>nd</sup> to December 6<sup>th</sup>

For more information, Click [HERE](#)

# In Memoria\_\_\_\_\_



We Honor Lester Wyman  
1937 – 2019

We are proud and humbled to honor our  
deceased AAGT members. To other  
members' memorials, please [Click HERE](#)



We Honor Phillip Lichtenberg  
1926 – 2020

[To read the full Memorial, please Click HERE](#)

# Thank you\_\_\_\_\_



## Goodbye Mari

Mari had been the AAGT administrator for over 4 years, as obvious as it is that people move on and go their separate ways, it never crossed my mind that Mari would not stay amongst us forever. Your dedication, tenacity, swift manner of executing any request and addressing any challenge most of the time accompanied by a sense of creativity, willingness and care. Repetitive and new missions were met with a smile reassuring us that they are easy to tasks to bring to fruition. In Judaism when we go our separate ways we close the Gestalt also by asking for forgiveness in the case we caused pain or hurt. I know that at times I missed you thus hurt or angered you, I wish to voice my regret and apologise in public. You have been a rock to the board, the membership, undoubtedly, my rock at demanding, trying and painful times. Thank you for being who you are, for speaking your truth, for calling the board and me to task from time to time.

May your route forward smile at you and bring you joy and satisfaction.

Tali

THANK YOU TO LAURA, OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR, AND TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER!