



AAGT

Gestalt therapy



**Association for the Advancement
of Gestalt Therapy**

FOR OUR TIME

**SOCIAL VISION
PERSONAL GROWTH**



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAN IT BE DONE?

As I think about what it is that I looking for in AAGT, I go back to my initial exposure to its process in Montreal, Canada many years ago. I attended the Town Hall Meeting pretty much a wide-eyed observer. It was quite exciting, people standing up and stating their piece, Bud Feder was the process observer and time keeper, and it was apparent that despite the differences something mattered to these people...the future of Gestalt Therapy. I was hooked.

We have come a long way from those days... I have come a long way. I couldn't have imagined that I would have eventually taken on being President. As I leave my tenure as President I continue my interest in what drew me to AAGT in that first meeting, (i.e., lively dialogue and interaction with people that care about the future of Gestalt Therapy). However, amidst our difficulties, skepticism and concern has crept its way in. Something isn't working. While I certainly hold to our optimistic notions of deconstruction and reformation, I also believe that there are real threats to our vitality and future as a functioning community.

We all want some different things from AAGT. Clearly, there are a variety of values that compete. Some want a large professional conferences, some want a pure kind of process, others simply want to commune with others regardless of the form. The fact we want different things is not what concerns me, it is the manner that we attempt to get what we want. Is it possible for us as a community to each hold to our values of dialogue and quality process? Gestalt therapy has much to say about "doing it well" and yet what is discouraging, at times, is how each of us can so easily move away from good contact in our community in our attempt to get what we want.

My question is simply this...If we can't do it, who can? Can the members of AAGT find a way of coming together; to allow the beauty of diversity to guide us to a broader vision of the field? Can we entertain some idea of a social vision at this conference if we cannot use our perspective to build our organization? Or will parochialism dilute and distract us into an impotent community of least common denominators?

There are many things within our culture that already burden the psychotherapy profession: managed care, dwindling access to services, poor funding, and especially the trend away from process oriented therapies like Gestalt. Many Gestalt Institutes are struggling to get trainees. My hope is that we can not only frame our difficulties in some positive way, but perhaps hold each of our agendas lightly enough to hear one another, to look beyond our individualism. I think there is a real threat to our profession and our practice if we do not. If we cannot find a way to be a community, then how will Gestalt therapy have any impact upon something as large as a society?

Can it be done? Certainly it's possible. Perhaps a better question is are we willing?

Sincerely,
Bruce A. Robertson, M.S.
Outgoing President

AAGT's 5th International Gestalt Therapy Conference

November 8 -12, 2000

**Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas
American Airlines
Conference Center**

Embraces four sub themes:

- Next Steps in Theory and Practice
- Contexts: Harmonies and Disturbances in the Field
- Applications to and beyond Mental Health
- Accommodations and Integrations for Growth



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT/INCOMING PRESIDENT

Social vision and personal growth is a topic highly relevant at this time -- to the world at large, and to us-- AAGT. Our organizational constitution says that our purpose is to advance Gestalt therapy, and to associate-- to provide the opportunity to form community. We of AAGT are really a diverse conglomeration in many ways. While we share a commitment to Gestalt Therapy, I'm sure we don't all even define Gestalt Therapy the same way. We're a pretty good example of multiple realities. We definitely don't all see the organization in the same way. Over time, we have produced some fabulous conferences with hard evidence of that in the form of evaluations by participants. We have gotten five year approval for continuing education from an impressive number of professional organizations. We have members for whom the conferences are the heart and soul of the organization, and members who would like to transform the conferences, and members who don't care if we ever have another conference. We have regional sub groups that are active and vital all year and have meetings of their own, and regions where there is no AAGT activity between conferences. We have interest groups that are active between meetings and have submitted and produced workshops at conferences, and interest groups that barely meet for the scheduled lunches.

With all this diversity, we have experienced quite a bit of conflict over time. Some of the struggles have been to create a unified vision for AAGT through dialogue. We have failed to do so. We have tried to be inclusive, and in the view of some members, allowed small vocal minorities too much voice. We have tried to be effective and efficient, and in the view of some members, allowed structure and hierarchy too much power. We have gotten stubborn and territorial, and lost both grace and generosity with one another, and yet kept struggling toward some workable vision. We have fragmented around many issues, both of process and content. During these struggles, as an organization, we have lost energy and membership and financial support. At the same time, some of us have discovered new depths of flexibility and good will and broader perspectives.

We are a volunteer organization. There isn't any "them" here. Either we acknowledge that we're all in the same boat and are all responsible for the health of AAGT, or "we have met the enemy," as Pogo says, "and he is us." Up until now, the Conference Planning Committee members, besides volunteering endless hours of work, also paid their conference registration a year ahead to fund pre-conference expenses. This year, partly because of the New York conference and partly because of a smaller, poorer CPC, we could not afford to pay a conference coordinator. This has affected the workload of the CPC members, and has created gaps in preparation for the conference that will be visible. Those wonderful conferences were achieved at the cost of a lot of burnout of a lot of good folks-- and the burnout has had more to do with struggle, territoriality, criticism and lack of support than with work. We don't have the funding resources we need, and there is a lot of work to do to keep us functioning and vital. We need to create a climate of generosity rather than one of scarcity, and we need to acknowledge our diversity more effectively in order to do so.

What I envision right now is each of us committing to a kind of personal growth that will support social change-- in AAGT and beyond. First, I would like to see a pluralistic vision develop, as opposed to a prematurely synthesizing, consensual vision. I'd like to see people be able to put their work where their passion and vision are strongest, without being stymied and in struggle before they even hit a rhythm. Each conference can be an experiment, as long as we stick around to evaluate and learn from the experiment, as can each of our community building efforts-- regions, interest groups, the ECB track at the conferences, conference venues and costs, fund raising strategies, philosophical discussions.

If we can support each aspect of our organizational self to express its possibilities more fully, with less judgment and enough time, support and resources, the dialogue may be rich enough to lead to a synthesis we can't even picture yet. I'm advocating for considering a serial exploration of our possibilities-- and look forward to dialogue about that in Dallas. I also look forward to meeting and greeting all of you, and to the warmth, direct contact, exciting presentations, constructive community process, and the Saturday night shindig.

Carol Brockmon



FROM THE EDITOR

I'm writing this editorial as the Olympic marathon is being telecast, waiting for the closing ceremonies. As I listen I realize that a friend of mine is experiencing this directly. Sharon Snir, who became my friend through my association with AAGT, edits the newsletter for Gestalt Australia New Zealand. She lives in Sydney, and she writes:

"To be an Aussie at this time in the Olympic city is incredible. Besides everyone exploding with joy and pride over the opening ceremony all the schools and businesses have closed (except food, hotels and restaurants) to celebrate these two weeks. There are huge screens set up all around the city, and on Sunday for the closing ceremony we are taking all the family down to a huge park right on the harbour where we will see the ceremony and then watch the fireworks over the city and on the harbour. This park is directly in front of the harbour bridge and the Opera House, so I think it should be a great evening. There are live bands playing free all over the city and dancing in the streets every night. The buildings in the city have had huge spot lights set up around the base and all the buildings at night become the most brilliant colours, purple, turquoise, red, magenta, blue...."

I hope you will forgive the stretch when I say that for me the Olympics has much in common with our upcoming AAGT conference. People come from long distances, from diverse backgrounds, and in spite of varying degrees of hardship, to be with others who share their values around a certain discipline. While the focal point for the organizing may be the events (competitions, meetings, presentations), there is something much bigger that goes on, something that stirs our hearts. I am so looking forward to the conference in Dallas/Fort Worth, the opportunity to talk about what we do and how to make it a real force for change, the stimulation of a group of people struggling to create an organization that has integrity, the "associating, singing, and dancing" and the fellowship of people I have come to value so much.

See you at the barbecue!

Elizabeth S. Revell

FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

The conference is shaping up as an exciting event, balancing top-level presentations and workshops with process groups and time to enjoy the retreat location. As you know, this year we will be interweaving our community meeting time throughout the conference, which affords us the opportunity to explore and develop organizational issues over the course of several days. These sessions are being planned by the Executive Committee, and will in effect serve as organizational development workshops that everyone can participate in. Our purpose in writing this is to both inform you and invite your participation regarding what we have planned.

Among the goals that have been formulated by the EC is the desire to develop the organizational life of AAGT beyond conferences alone. To this end, we are scheduling sessions to support and evaluate two of the ongoing structures in the organization, the regions and the interest groups. In these meetings your input will be particularly important. By sharing our experiences of what works and what doesn't about these structures, we will learn what might help them work better, or what might work instead. For example, the regional structure is working very well in some areas (for example, the southwestern United States), but perhaps is not as suited for larger geographic areas where people are more spread out. And what about interest groups--how might they better satisfy membership needs? Do you have thoughts as to how we could better support, or restructure them?

Our intention is to take time out to evaluate these experiments, and apply our creativity to discovering/inventing the next step. It is also our hope that focusing on these ongoing areas of AAGT will help us to better structure ways for many people to participate in growing our organization. Please begin thinking about what you might want to contribute to and receive from this process, and help build the ground for our process together in November.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I look forward to hearing from you in Texas.

Cynthia Cook

TABLES AVAILABLE

AAGT Conference Invites Vendor Participation

**We have tables available
for rent at the AAGT
Conference in Dallas.
Members are given a
discount on table rentals,
but non-members may
also participate.**

**Here are the rental
prices:**

MEMBERS:

Full table: \$150.00

Half table: \$85.00

"Take one" table: \$25.00

NON MEMBERS:

Full table: \$250.00

Half table: \$150.00

"Take one" table: \$50.00

**To rent a table please
contact Irv Gadol,
phone 927.661.5296,
irwingad@airmail.net.**

AAGT's 5th International Gestalt Therapy Conference

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community.

see details on
page 9

Workshops

SESSION I: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 8:45-10:45 AM

- A Balancing and Juggling Act Between Strategy and Intimacy - Joe Melnick
- Writing on Gender: Gestalt Perspectives, Gestalt Methods -- Carol Brockmon & Iris Fodor
- A Gestalt Approach to Dealing With Anxiety -- Norman Shub
- Understanding Trauma and Dissociation: Developing Gestalt Theory -- Cynthia Cook
- 101 Years of Gestalt Therapy...Yours, Mine and Ours -- Charles Bowman

SESSION II: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 1-3 PM

- The "EXPERIMENT" in Gestalt Therapy -- Ansel Woldt
- The Experience of Shame: A Gestalt Theoretical Approach -- Peter Phillipson
- A Dramatic Approach to Gestalt Group Work -- Sylvia Crocker
- Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence: Understanding the Link -- Elizabeth Revell
- The Introjected Couple: An Intergenerational Approach -- Anne Teachworth

SESSION III: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 12:45-2:45 PM

- Evolution and Intersubjectivity: A Gestalt Synthesis -- Arthur Roberts and Gordon Wheeler
- Here and Now Fatherhood for Us and Our Clients --
-- Alvin Revell, Bruce Robertson, Brian O'Neill and Joseph Dreiss
- Developing Character: A Somatic Approach -- Ruella Frank
- The Therapeutic Change Process in Interactive Gestalt Group Therapy -- Jay Earley
- Experimenting With Crossing Boundaries: Finding a Middle Ground -- Bud Feder

SESSION IV: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 3-5 PM

- Troubleshooting for Gestalt Two-Chair Work -- Bea Mackay
- The Gestalt Reflecting Team -- Rachel Brier
- The Developing Field: Toward a Gestalt Developmental Model -- Gordon Wheeler and
Deborah Ullman
- Working Through Writing Issues -- Susan Baker, Cara Garcia and Judith Kushnet
- Struggling With God: Buber and the Practice of Gestalt Therapy -- Edwin Harris

SESSION V: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH 8:45-10:45 AM

- The Erotic Field: A Gestalt View of Sexuality
-- Carol Brockmon, Arthur Roberts, Leanne
O'Shea, Deborah Ullman, Gordon Wheeler
- Gestalt Group Therapy with Borderline
Personality Disorder -- Paul Schoenberg
- Breathing into Contact -- Susan Gregory
- How to Write for Journal Publication --
Joe Melnick



AAGT's 5th International Gestalt Therapy Conference

Conference Schedule

WEDNESDAY

- 11:00-5:30 Meetings will be scheduled for the Executive Council, Board of Directors, Hosts/Hostesses (for Presenters), ECB (Experiments In Community Building) Facilitators' Training, and Process Group Facilitators' Training
- 5:30-7:00 Dinner
- 7:30-8:00 WELCOME to "Gestalt Therapy for Our Time"
Bruce Robertson, President and Carol Brockmon, President Elect
- 8:00-10:00 Plenary/Community Session #1: "Social Vision and Personal Growth: A Facilitated Interactive Introduction to AAGT Community 2000"
Includes first meeting of process groups.
- 10:15-11:00 Reception

THURSDAY

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast (7:00 Women's Interest Group Breakfast)
- 8:45-10:45 Session I Workshops and ECB Session #1
- 11:00-1:00 Lunch (1/3 of Interest Groups Meet over Lunch)
- 1:00-3:00 Session II Workshops and ECB Session #2
- 3:15-4:45 Plenary/Community Session #2: "Gestalt Therapy for Our Time: Social Vision and Personal Growth"
- 5:00-6:30 Process Groups Session #2 (1/2 meet at this time)
- 5:30-7:30 Dinner
- 6:30-8:00 Process Groups Session #2 (1/2 meet at this time)
- 8:15-10:00 Plenary/Community Session #3: "Networking for Social Vision and Personal Growth" (Regional Networking and Creative Problem-Solving to Enhance Personal and Professional Contact)
- 10:00-? End of Day Gathering/Check In/Feedback

FRIDAY

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast (7:00 Conference Planning Committee 2001/2, Other Interest Group Breakfast by request)
- 8:45-10:45 Plenary/Community Session #4: "Gestalt Therapy for Our Time: Social Vision and Personal Growth"
- 11:00-1:00 Lunch (1/3 of Interest Groups Meet over Lunch)
- 12:45-2:45 Session III Workshops and ECB Session #3
- 3:00-5:00 Session IV Workshops and ECB Session #4
- 5:00-6:30 Process Groups Session #3 (1/2 meet at this time)
- 5:30-7:30 Dinner
- 6:30-8:00 Process Groups Session #3 (1/2 meet at this time)
- 8:15-10:00 Plenary/Community Session #4: "Interest Group Meetings for Social Vision and Personal Growth"
- 10:00-? End of Day Gathering/Check-In/Feedback

NEEDED

Group Leaders Needed!

We still need people to serve as group leaders during the conference, both for process groups and for the Experiments in Community Building groups.

Process Group Leaders: Process group leaders facilitate daily groups to create a ground of support for people attending the conference. We need some experienced leaders and co-facilitators who don't need to have prior experience. It is a good opportunity to contribute and learn. Please contact Elizabeth Revell, Revell@blazenet.net, 717.840.1356.

Experiments in Community Building: The committee is responsible for monitoring topics that emerge in community sessions each day, determining the topics for the ECB sessions and posting them. We also need experienced group facilitators. Contact person: Cynthia Cook, Cynthea3@aol.com.

WWW

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WEB



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SATURDAY

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast (7:00 Conference Planning Committee 2001/2)
- 8:45-10:45 Session V Workshops and ECB Session #5
- 11:00-12:00 AAGT Board of Directors Annual Meeting
- 11:00-1:00 Lunch (1/3 of Interest Groups Meet over Lunch)
- 1:00-2:30 Process Groups Session #4
- 2:30-3:30 Town Meeting for Social Vision & Personal Growth
- 3:45-7:00 AAGT's Annual Community & Business Meeting
- 7:15-8:30 A Good Old Down-Home Texas Bar-B-Q
- 8:30-10:00 Reception Honoring Ansel Woldt followed by Having Fun Together: Associating, Singing and Dancing

SUNDAY

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast (7:30 New Executive Council Meeting)
- 8:45-10:45 Closing Plenary Session: "Gestalt Therapy for Our Time: Social Vision & Personal Growth"
- 11:00-1:00 Lunch: CPC 2000 Interfaces with CPC 2001 & 2002: "Social Vision & Personal Growth for the Next AAGT Meetings & Conferences: Philadelphia in 2001 and Portland in 2002"

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Editor's Note: In the last issue we published a list of current members of AAGT. Unfortunately, I used an aged list, so there were many inaccuracies. The list below is, as far as we are able to determine, current as of the beginning of October. If you are a paid member for 2000 and your name doesn't appear on the list, please contact Bud Feder, AAGT Treasurer, beefeder@home.com 198 Lorraine Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Alan Meara, Brisbane, Australia | Liv Estrup, Santa Monica, CA USA |
| Maria Vanden Eynde, Heverlee, Belgium | Isabel Fredericson, Santa Barbara, CA USA |
| Dolores Bate Vancouver, BC, Canada | Cara Garcia, Culver City, CA USA |
| Bea Mackay, Burnaby, Canada | Laura Gasparrini, Santa Barbara, CA USA |
| Douglas Norman, Vancouver, BC, Canada | Alice Gerstman, Torrance, CA USA |
| Judy Graham, London, England | Nickie Godfrey, Encino, CA USA |
| Ian Greenway, Nottingham, England | Lucanna Grey, Mountain View, CA USA |
| Lynda Osborne, Farnham, England | Benjamin Hammett, Palo Alto, CA USA |
| Malcolm Parlett, Knighton, England | Joseph Handlon, Santa Barbara, CA USA |
| Peter Philippson, Manchester, England | Ruth Lampert, Los Angeles, CA USA |
| Gonzague Masquelier, Beauvais, France | Virginia Lindberg, Fresno, CA USA |
| Stefan Berzel, Mainz, Germany | Violet Oaklander, Santa Barbara, CA USA |
| Rosemarie Wulf, Berlin, Germany | Erving Polster, LaJolla, CA USA |
| Hanan Gurel, Jerusalem, Israel | Miriam Polster, LaJolla, CA USA |
| Ann Duckles de Cornejo, Col. Florida, A. Obr, Mexico | John Reis, LaJolla, C USA |
| Anne Maclean, Riccarton, New Zealand | Stella Resnick, LosAngeles, CA USA |
| Judith Dieguez-Sabucedo, A Coruna, Spain | Janet Ruckert, Los Angeles, CA USA |
| Noel Salathe, Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland | Erv Ruhl, Fresno, CA USA |
| Judith Geer, Tempe, AZ USA | Stephanie Sabar, LosAngeles, CA USA |
| Scott Hendrickson, Tempe AZ, USA | John Soper, Big Sur, CA USA |
| Robert Mosby, Scottsdale, AZ USA | Lynn Stadler, Santa Barbara, CA USA |
| Ronald Alexander, Santa Monica, CA USA | Frances Verrinder, San Francisco, CA USA |
| Susan Baker, Oxnard, CA USA | Anna Walden, La Jolla, CA USA |
| Len Bergantino, Los Angeles, CO USA | Sandy Goldman, Boulder, CO USA |
| Lois Brien, Signal Hill, CA USA | Ellen Flaum, West Palm Beach, FL USA |
| George Brown, Santa Barbara, CA USA | Suzanne Imes, Atlanta, GA USA |
| Judith Brown, Santa Barbara, CA USA | Bruce Aaron, Chicago, IL USA |
| Cynthia Burnside, Santa Barbara, CA USA | Sylvia Babbín, Chicago, IL USA |
| Todd Butler, San Diego, CA USA | Phyllis Sweitzer, Champaign, IL USA |
| Felicia Carroll, Santa Barbara, CA USA | Ann Bowman, Indianapolis, IN USA |
| Jay Earley, Larkspur, CA USA | Liz Fitzgerald, Indianapolis, IN USA |

Marianne Gosma, Indianapolis, IN USA
Julian Gray, Trafalgar, IN USA
Steve Roberts, Indianapolis, IN USA
Audrey Savago, Indianapolis, IN USA
James Thompson, Elizabethtown, KY USA
Gestalt Institute, New Orleans/NY Inc., Metairie, LA
Anne Teachworth, Metairie, LA USA
Rachel Brier, Richmond, MA USA
Sandra Cardoso-Zinker, Wellfleet, MA USA
Sharona Halpern, Newton, MA USA
Edwin Nevis, Brookline, MA USA
Sonia March Nevis, Brookline, MA USA
Allan Singer, Weston, MA USA
Gordon Wheeler, Cambridge, MA USA
Joseph Zinker, Wellfleet, MA USA
Edwin Harris, St. Louis, MO USA
Jack Mulgrew, Boone, NC USA
Jack Aylward, Watchung, NJ USA
Nancy Bristol, Westfield, NJ USA
Timothy Brown, Flemington, NJ USA
Linda DiTullio, Millington, NJ USA
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Maria Kirchner, Warren, NJ USA
Candice Knight, Flemington, NJ USA
Joel Latner, Princeton, NJ USA
Helen Lindsay, Millington, NJ USA
Cynthia Harris, Albuquerque, NM USA
Ken Hutchinson, Silver City, NM USA
Beth Prothro, Lamy, NM USA
John Wymore, Placitas, NM USA
Marilyn Maini, Las Vegas, NV USA
Chari Phillips, Las Vegas, NV USA
Judith Yeager, Las Vegas, NV USA
Mona Banzer, Brooklyn, NY USA
Joan Benevento, New York, NY USA
Siobhan Brigid Cashin, Yonkers, NY USA
Alan Cohen, Scarsdale, NY USA
Richard Erskine, New York, NY USA
Gail Feinstein, Brooklyn, NY USA
Iris Fodor, New York, NY USA
Ruella Frank, New York, NY USA
Zelda Friedman, Flushing, NY USA
Elinor Greenberg, New York, NY USA
Susan Gregory, New York, NY USA
Burt Lazarin, New York, NY USA
Sandra Lucas, New York, NY USA

Joyce Magid, Melville, NY USA
Lois Meridith, New York, NY USA
Constance Newman Cohen, Scarsdale, NY USA
Mary Ann O'Connor, Rochester, NY USA
Amy Pitt, Rochester, NY USA
Barbara Steinmetz, Lido Beach, NY USA
Deborah Stewart, Brooklyn, NY USA
Viv D. Wolsk, New York, NY USA
Marlene Blumenthal, Beechwood, OH USA
Kay Broughton, Cleveland, OH USA
Jesse Carlock, Dayton, OH USA
Sara Follett, Cleveland, OH USA
Wesley Jackson, Cleveland Heights, OH USA
Elaine Kepner, Beachwood, OH USA
James Kepner, Shaker Heights, OH USA
Vicki Montesano, Medina, OH USA
Cynthia Reynolds, Akron, OH USA
Paul Shane, Brecksville, OH USA
Norman Shub, Columbus, OH USA
Idris Kabir Syed, Kent, OH USA
Sara Toman, Medina, OH USA
Ansel Woldt, Kent, OH USA
Nancy Woldt, Kent, OH USA
Dave Derr, Eugene, OR USA
Carol Swanson, Portland, OR USA
Effie Bastas, Philadelphia, PA USA
Carol Brockmon, Elkins Park, PA USA
Donna Cotzen, Philadelphia, PA USA
Gina Halkias, Pittsburgh, PA USA
Eileen Joseph, Glenside, PA USA
Philip Lichtenberg, Rosemont, PA USA
Virginia McIntosh, Philadelphia, PA USA
Alvin Revell, York, PA USA
Elizabeth Revell, York, PA USA
Ed Silverman, Mohnton, PA USA
Christine Mullen, Newport, RI USA
Shawn Mash, Dallas, TX USA
Bruce Robertson, Denton, TX USA
Susan Roos, Arlington, TX USA
Jennifer Streit, Denton, TX USA
Anne Leibig, Dungannon, VA USA
Eva Gold, Vancouver, WA USA
Emil Jech, Bellingham, WA USA
David Gregory Smith, Seattle, WA USA
Stephen Zahm, Vancouver, WA USA
Sylvia Crocker, Laramie, WY USA

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Contributions Needed

A well-deserved tribute to Ansel Woldt for a lifetime of contributions to Gestalt Therapy will be made at the Saturday Evening Fest at the upcoming conference, i.e. November 11th. Financial support for this event is being solicited. Please send your contribution earmarked for the tribute to our treasurer Bud Feder (198 Lorraine Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043).

All contributors (individuals or organizations) of \$100 or more will be recognized through a poster prominently displayed at the conference, and through a prominent listing in a forthcoming issue of this newsletter.

Bud Feder

VOLUNTEERS

TO BE

PROCESS

GROUP

LEADERS

TO CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

We will be starting the conference with the opening Plenary on Wednesday November 8th, after dinner, which is served from 5:30 to 7:30 PM Central time.

Meetings of the AAGT Board, the Executive Council, the Conference Planning Committee, Process Group Leaders, Regional Contact Persons, Experiments in Community Building Facilitators and Interest Group Co-Chairs will take place between 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM on Wednesday, so if this is relevant for you, plan your travel with this in mind. The Executive Council and some others are arriving Tuesday night. Also, if at all possible, plan to stay for the closing. We will end at 1:00 PM Sunday November 12th.

To take advantage of a domestic airfare break available because our meeting is at the American Airlines center, use American Airlines and follow this procedure:

Call 1-800-433-1790.

The window in which travel is permitted at these rates is November 3 to November 17, 2000. Identify yourself as participating in the AAGT conference in Dallas/Fort Worth, and give them "Star File number 77NOUK." If you book your travel in this way, you will get the lowest applicable fare, minus 5%. If you book more than 60 days in advance, the discount will be 10%. For each 30 tickets we book, AAGT will be given one free ticket to use for scholarship purposes.

As stated in the brochure, your conference registration fee entitles you to the use of all American Airlines Conference Center facilities, continental breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks, whether or not you stay on site. Your room fee, paid on site, further entitles you to a full breakfast and dinner each day, and free transportation between the airport and the conference center. We hope to manage the Saturday night celebration with either no or a very minimal extra charge, pending the success of our efforts to mobilize sponsorship.

The AA Conference Center facility offers a gym with workout equipment, aerobics classes, outdoor tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, a pool with a hot tub, and a wooded jogging trail. If you want to take advantage of these amenities (all included for the registration fee), bring any special clothing or equipment you'll need. If you make music, we'd love to have you bring your instrument.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER
TO BE A PROCESS GROUP LEADER**

please contact:

Process Group Co-Chair

Charlie Bowman

9292 N. Meridian #311

Indianapolis, IN 46260 317.329.5574 AAGT1@aol.com

Or

Elizabeth Palazzi Revell

1120 Range Rd.

York, PA 17402 717.840.1356 Fax: 717.840.8792 revell@blazenet.net

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO BE
A FACILITATOR FOR AN EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY
BUILDING SESSION

please contact:

Program Committee Chair

Cynthia Cook

23 Nelson Ave.

Provincetown, MA 02657 508-487-6968 cynthea3@aol.com

IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORKSHOP
CALLED WRITING ON GENDER: GESTALT PERSPECTIVES,
GESTALT METHODS

submit a piece of writing either at the idea stage, the partially-formed-but-needs-focus-and-
definition stage, or the written-but-needs-editing-and-a-venue stage to:

Carol Brockmon

7861 Spring Ave.

Elkins Park, PA 19027

Include a statement about where you get stuck or what is hard for you. We (Carol Brockmon
and Iris Fodor) will use the first 1-3 we receive in each category to structure the workshop.
We look forward to your presence and Participation in November of 2000.

The Conference Planning Committee

VOLUNTEERS

TO BE A
FACILITATOR
FOR AN
EXPERIMENT
IN
COMMUNITY
BUILDING
SESSION

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**AAGT's 5th International
Gestalt Therapy Conference**

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* High quality (300dpi)

* Ads are not accepted on fax

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Payment is also required by October 31st, 2000. Make checks
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Mail checks, files and hard copy to:

Judy Robertson

#4 Highview Court, Denton, Texas 76205

Conference Registration Form

visit www.aagt.org for more information and to register online

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
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PHONE:	FAX:
EMAIL:	

FEES:
Members \$405.00
Non-Members \$455.00
Continuing Education Credit - \$15.00 administration fee

PAYMENT OF CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE (fill in the appropriate amount)

Conference Fee	\$
Scholarship Fund \$	
Total	\$

- Check enclosed (Please make check payable to AAGT)
 Visa Master Card
 Discover American Express

Send Checks and registration form to:
Bud Feder - 198 Lorraine Ave., Montclair NJ 07043
P: (973)-783-0740 Fax (810)-314-2490
beefeeder@home.com

Registering for Continuing Education Credit? yes no

Discipline: Social Work Psychology
 Counseling Other _____

I request: Vegetarian Non-Vegetarian Food

Other special dietary needs:

- Please send me a scholarship application
(Scholarships based on financial need and our available resources.)
 Please send me a Work/Study Application
(There are 16 slots for work/study: a \$100.00 fee reduction in exchange for two 4 hour shifts to be worked during the conference as a staff assistant or at registration or CEU.)

I would like to make reservation for a:

- Double Room (\$110 per person for 4 days = total \$440)
 Single Room (\$130 per person for 4 days = total \$520)
 Extra Nights Double Room Single Room
 I would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund
to provide assistance to those domestic and international
participants who would otherwise not be able to attend.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER:
EXP. DATE:
SIGNATURE:
DATE:

For Information Contact:
Carol Brockmon Email - cbrockmon@home.com
P 215-782-1484 F 215-635-2391
7861 Spring Ave, Elkins Park, PA19027



The Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (AAGT) is a dynamic, inclusive, energetic non-profit organization committed to the advancement of theory, philosophy, practice and research in Gestalt Therapy and its various applications. This includes but is not limited to personal growth, mental health, education, organization and systems development, political and social development and change, and the fine and performing arts. AAGT has a wide international member base including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, teachers, academics, writers, artists, performers, organizational consultants and political and social analysts and activists and students. [\(more\)](#)

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If you're looking for Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented please visit www.azagt.org

AAGT Web Page info:

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“On Request” DFW Airport Shuttle Transportation to the AAGT’s 5th International Gestalt Therapy Conference

AMERICAN AIRLINES CONFERENCE CENTER

Arrival Instructions

Hours of Operation: 7:00am - 11:00pm daily

1. Located the Hotel Courtesy Board in the Baggage Claim Area of the Terminal at D/FW International Airport
2. Using one of the two phones on the Board - Dial 650, the code for American Airlines Training & Conference Center. You will reach an operator at the American Airlines Training & Conference Center
(Do not use phones on the Ground Transportation or Auto Rental Boards that ar adjacent).
3. Let the operator know the following information:
 - Your Name
 - Group Name
 - Terminal
 - Section
4. Please go the Courtesy Van Pick Up area on the Lower Level, wait by the gray signs indicating “Courtesy” shuttles. The vehicle will say “American Airlines Training & Conference Center” on the side. The driver will step out of the vehicle and announce transportation to the American Airlines Training & Conference Center. Please be sure to take this shuttle only.
5. There are many AMR/American Airlines shuttles moving through the airport, so be certain you do not take the wrong shuttle

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FROM GESTALT AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND (GANZ)

Editor's note: This article was the editorial that appeared in the September issue of the GANZ (Gestalt Australia New Zealand) Newsletter. It seemed timely not only because Australia has been so much in the news but also because Sharon seems to have something valuable to say to us as we prepare for our conference.

In Kabbalah class I am told that receiving comes from a higher source than giving. I believe this concept to be so rich in possibilities that recently I co-facilitated a workshop titled "The Gift of Receiving." Clearly the participants enjoyed the workshop, and after worrying for months (as I always do) I felt a deep sense of relief and joy at its success. As my colleague and I embraced, I said to her "That was just wonderful," to which she nodded in agreement and added, "Yes, and we work so differently." Her comments led me into wondering about how easily we are able to identify our individual differences and not so easily our similarities.

This reminded me of a documentary entitled "The Jew in the Lotus" which I had recently seen. The film documented the journey of eight rabbis who, in 1990, were invited by the Dalai Lama to visit him in India. There are many obvious differences between the Tibetan people and the Jewish people—culture, clothes, food, prayer, ritual and tradition—and yet the Dalai Lama responded to the similarities. Through perceiving these similarities he recognized the opportunity for these rabbinical leaders to share with him "the secret of Jewish spiritual survival and exile." As the Tibetan people remain in exile, the Dalai Lama, with all his wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, stood in a place of willingness to learn from those he regarded as experts in the field.

Within our GANZ community there runs a river of diversity. Individuals with different styles, opinions, methods and beliefs, training centers that approach topics, method and process differently. However, it is in noticing the similar, that we may be come challenged, confronted, delighted, frightened and touched. When I choose to remain "blind" to how similar I am to another, I usually miss a precious lesson and fall into a familiar pattern of "making the other person wrong" or, more specifically, "making myself right."

Unless we learn to receive our clients, colleagues, friends and family with grace and to recognize parts of ourselves in them, then true compassion, empathy, and meeting may remain elusive. It is not so difficult to see how different we are from each other; we do that all the time. But to receive insight into how similar we are, now that's a gift!

Sharon Snir

Editor, GANZ Newsletter



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Association for the Advancement
of Gestalt Therapy

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GESTALT THERAPY

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