



AAGT NEWS

Association for the Advancement
of Gestalt Therapy

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

by Cynthia Cook

AAGT's November conference in St. Petersburg, FL is continuing to take shape. Presenters have been notified of their acceptances, and the conference plenaries have been designed. Several notable members of the Gestalt community have agreed to be a part of these major events, including Margaret (Pat) Korb, Celia Young, Marie Quiery, and Sean Gaffney.

This year's Program Committee faced the annual challenge of creating a schedule that is full of offerings—and yet leaves free time, that provides opportunities for experiencing quality presenters from around the world—and also allows time in community for experience to emerge. We hope you are pleased with what we have created for our conference in St. Petersburg. Of particular note: we have left Friday afternoon entirely free and scheduled some community time in the evening, so that people can enjoy the area without missing out on conference activities, and those who choose not to participate in the community meeting can check out the local nightlife!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2002

During the day, meeting times will be scheduled for: Process Group Leaders, Regional Contact Persons, Interest Group chairs, and Experiments in Community Building facilitators. There will also be a Board meeting, and hosting for foreign and first-time presenters. If you intend to participate in any of these activities, please check with your coordinator or Sarah Toman or Cynthia Cook to confirm the exact schedule.

6:30 - 8:30PM

Conference Opening, Plenary #1

Featuring a panel presentation with Margaret (Pat) Korb, Celia Young and Marie Quiery, moderated by Cynthia Cook

8:45 - 10:15PM

Process Group #1

10:30PM

Reception (graciously provided by the Children and Family Gestalt Institute, thanks to Chuck and Cara Kanner)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2002

6:30 - 8:45AM

Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 11:00AM

Workshops session #1

11:00 - 11:30AM

Break

11:30AM - 1:30PM

Community Meeting #1

Orientation to AAGT and Community Meeting Agenda

1:30 - 2:45PM

Lunch (included)

3:00 - 5:00PM

Workshops session #2

5:00 - 5:30PM

Break

5:30 - 7:00PM

Process Group #2

AAGT Sixth International Conference

*to be held
November 6-10,
2002,
St. Petersburg,
Florida*

www.aagt.org

**REGISTER
FOR THE
2002
CONFERENCE
ONLINE**

ROOMMATE

Need a Roommate?

The room rate at the Sirata Beach Resort is the same whether the room has one occupant or two. If you are interested in sharing the room rent for the duration of the conference, contact Bud Feder, bfeder@comcast.net, 973.783.0740. We can't guarantee that you will be matched with someone, but Bud has agreed to collect the requests and let people who want roommates know about each other.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2002

6:30 - 8:45AM	Continental Breakfast
9:00AM - 1:00PM	Plenary #2 , Holding the Heat of Social Conflict, facilitated by Sean Gaffney and committee (includes Process Group Meeting #3 and mid-morning break)
1:00 - 6:00PM	Free time, lunch/dinner on your own
6:00 - 8:00PM	Workshops session #3
8:00 - 8:30PM	Break
8:30 - 10:30PM	Community Meeting #2

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2002

9:00 - 11:00AM	Workshops session #4
11:00AM - 11:30AM	Break
11:30AM - 1:30PM	Workshops session #5
1:30 - 2:45PM	Lunch (included)
3:00 - 5:00PM	Community Meeting #3 and Business Meeting (including elections)
5:00 - 5:30PM	Break
5:30 - 7:00PM	Process Group #4
7:30 - 11:00PM	Dinner/Dance

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2002

6:30 - 8:45AM	Continental Breakfast (New Executive Committee Meets)
9:00 - 10:30AM	Community Meeting #4 : 2004 Conference Planning
10:30 - 11:00AM	Break
11:00AM - 1:00PM	Closing Plenary

AAGT OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION

A most important task during the community meetings at our November conference is the election of officers. The following offices are up for election. If there is someone you would like to nominate, please notify the chair of the Nominations Committee, Bud Feder, bfeder@comcast.net, 973.783.0740. Please also contact Bud if you are willing to serve on the Nominations Committee.

Secretary, 2 year term

Treasurer, 2 year term

In addition to elective offices, the appointed position of Publications Editor is coming up for renewal. This position involves a 3 year term. Please notify Bud if you are interested in being considered.

Finally, we need Currently we need chairpersons for the following Interest Groups,

Ecological Dimensions of Gestalt Therapy

Gestalt Community Development, Networking and Support

Gestalt Therapy and Social Change

Gestalt Therapy With Children

Professional Training, Certification and Practice

Women's Issues in Gestalt Therapy

The length of term for Interest Group Chairpersons is determined by the Interest Group itself.

FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Our scholarship drive for the 2002 conference in St. Petersburg, Florida is still underway and we are reminding you that we need your help. Many of you attended the lively conference in Dallas-Fort Worth in November 2000 and remember the stimulating diversity of attendees. The international presence at the conference not only adds to the richness of our time together, it is crucial to the building of a vital, international organization. It is due to contributions to our scholarship fund that we are able to help people from around the world attend our conferences. Some of our colleagues who are interested in presenting their work at the upcoming conference need our help, with transportation costs, getting to Florida. In addition, we are committed to providing financial support to graduate students and other professionals who need our help to attend the conference.

Here is what you can do to help the scholarship effort:

1. When you register for the conference, you can add a generous donation to the scholarship fund.
2. If you are affiliated with a group or institute you can request a donation be made to our scholarship fund. The group/institute will be acknowledged in our conference program.
3. If you have any ideas for raising money or know someone who might be interested in sponsoring a scholarship candidate, please contact me.
4. Tax- deductible donations to the scholarship fund may be mailed separately from conference registration. Send a check, marked 'AAGT Scholarship Fund' to Bud Feder AAGT Treasurer at 198 Lorraine Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043.



Donate today and get a great gift!!!

Donations of \$25 or more will receive a gift from the conference, a double compartment, hot and cold, insulated, bright red, soft lunchbox, with the "Holding The Heat" logo on the front. If you have any ideas or questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your past and continued support!

Sharona Halpern, Scholarship Committee Chair,
617.658.7086

This beautiful red and black insulated lunch bag, with separate compartments for hot and cold foods shown here by Dr. Alvin Revell, will be given to everyone who donates \$25 or more to the scholarship fund.

CONFERENCE ART EXHIBIT

To the artist in you:

We have decided to have an exhibit of artwork done by AAGT members and/or participants at the AAGT conference in Florida. We want to display your work in any medium you like: drawing, painting, sculpture, needlework, quilting, any craft, whatever means you use for artistic self-expression.

Judy Robertson will be organizing the exhibit. Please let her know, as soon as possible, what your contribution will be, including the medium and the dimension, so that she can plan the exhibit space. Contact Judy at 941.378.5231 or by email at judyrobertson@mac.com.

Sirata Beach Resort

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 - 3 heated pools
 - 2 whirlpools
 - Fitness Center
 - Beach Cabanas
 - 2 barefoot beach bars
 - Water trykes
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 - Supervised children's programs
 - Nearby Golf privileges
 - Parasailing and watersports
- At the Sirata Beach Resort, you can do it all or nothing at all.**

Relax to the gentle sounds of the surf and softly swaying sea oats along the dunes.

Stroll miles of our award-winning beaches while enjoying a brilliant west coast sunset.



CONFERENCE

AAGT Conference Special Events

Our conference venue allows us opportunities for some terrific free time activities. Already plans are afoot for a visit to the Dali Museum and for a bird-watching excursion in the Tampa area. If you are interested in these events, check at the conference registration and display area for news as these events are organized.

FROM THE EDITOR

As I write this the Florida conference is about three months away. We are publishing the conference schedule in this issue, which makes it even more real. Presentations have been accepted, presenters notified, and travel arrangements are being made. For me I am so excited that I will soon see my friends Lars Berg, from Sweden, and Sharon Snir, from Australia. I know that each of you has particular favorite friends that you will be looking forward to seeing again.

While the Conference Planning Committee is finishing their work, there are some important matters that need the attention of all of you. Of greatest importance is that we need donations to the scholarship fund. In addition to Sharon and Lars, there are other international presenters and participants that are going to enormous expense to join with us and add to the richness of our conference. A donation in any amount will be very much appreciated, especially by those who are traveling such long distances.

For those of you attending the conference, **make certain that you have not only registered with AAGT but be sure that you have reserved your hotel room. AAGT can't guarantee you a room; you have to make sure to register on your own.** Also, if you would like to share room expense with a roommate but don't have one yet, Bud Feder will help put you in touch with others who want to share a room.

The conference business meeting is also a time for elections and appointments of people to do the everyday business of AAGT. In particular, I will be stepping down as Publications Editor; this is my next-to-last issue. I will be contributing regularly as a sort of "Foreign Correspondent" through my ongoing collaboration with Sharon Snir, Editor. Sadly, the conference will also end the term of Sarah Toman as AAGT Secretary. There is also a vacancy in the Treasurer position as Bud Feder moves up to the role of President. Please consider whether you might be willing to take an active role in AAGT by expressing an interest in one of these offices. For me, taking this active role in AAGT has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. I know that you will also find it so if you decide to step forward.

This issue includes additional information about the conference, as well as requests for donations to the scholarship fund and requests for volunteers for process group leaders and work study students. There is additional detail about the AAGT offices that need to be filled in November. There is information about the Southwest Regional Conference, as well as further detail about the organizational category of membership. There are further reactions to the last newsletter's report and discussion of the meeting held to work at healing AAGT organizational rifts, and there is greater detail about the Service Exchange Program that we are inaugurating. Finally, Jan Ruckert has been kind enough to submit a most poignant poem.

Elizabeth S. Revell, Ph.D.
717.840.1356
ESRevell@suscom.net

A NEW CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP: ORGANIZATIONAL

by Bud Feder

Effective immediately, AAGT has instituted a new category of membership called Organizational. This is open to any Gestalt group or organization, such as institutes, societies, training centers, businesses, etc. Dues are \$100 per year (except \$50 this first year) which include a free membership (or waiving of dues) for any member of said organization who is designated by it as a liaison to AAGT. The liaison person will be the individual who AAGT will contact with relevant information, newsletters, etc.

By joining, an organization will in addition receive the following benefits:

- a 25% discount for conference display tables;
- a 25% discount for advertising in our newsletter and our conference programs;
- a listing in our membership directory, including address, phone, fax, contact person, website, etc;
- a similar listing in conference posters;
- a hardcopy and an email posting of our newsletter. (We are also exploring the possibility of sending an email copy to the newsletter to all members of the organization who so request);
- a 20% dues reduction, the first year, for new individual members to AAGT who indicate they belong to one of our organizational members;
- an opportunity for organizational members to meet together at our conferences over topics of mutual interest (such as training, ethics, research, etc.) and to jointly offer presentations such as panels, seminars and the like at our conferences, with conference slots designated for these purposes.

For an application to join on the organizational level, contact our treasurer Bud Feder, bfeder@comcast.net, phone: 973.783.0740.

TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations; a fabulous newsletter. It excited me. Even though there was nothing in it I didn't already know, yet seeing all the pieces in one chockfull issue had a strong effect on me.

Love, Bud

BRITISH GESTALT JOURNAL

The BGJ is a twice yearly journal dedicated to supporting Gestalt therapy and its related applications.

It has been published for ten years and enjoys a high reputation in the Gestalt field internationally.

*Journal themes have addressed Gestalt and Spirituality, Gestalt in Education, Gestalt and Groups, Gestalt in Organisations as well as extensive investigation of Gestalt as a form of Psychotherapy. Topics have included discussion of narcissism, race, shame, gay and lesbian issues, relation to self-psychology, body-work with children, the work of Gestalt organisational consultants, and group therapy.

*Besides advances in clinical practice, BGJ articles include leading edge theory, and holistic and field informed research. Challenging and stimulating international debate is regularly enacted in our "Letters to the Editor" section. Book and tape reviews appear regularly.

*Periodically, we interview leading exponents of Gestalt; previous interviewees have included: Joseph Zinker, Dolores Bate, Marianne Fry, Gaie Houston and Hunter Beaumont.

Back copies of the journal are available, and you may make your order via: Tel or Fax: +44 (0) 117 907 7539 or within the web-site below.

Please visit our web-site on: www.britishgestaltjournal.com

SW REGION

Southwest Regional News

by
Isabel Fredericson

The Southwest region of AAGT will hold its seventh annual conference the weekend of September 20-22, 2002 at the Doubletree Inn in Santa Monica, CA. This conference is a mixture of presentations, a spontaneous agenda, and lots of food and fun. It will be preceded by a Writers' Conference led by Joe Melnick, editor of Gestalt Review. Both are open to any AAGT member.

For more information, please contact Cara Garcia at cara.garcia@pepperdine.edu, or Isabel Fredericson, at freddy9282@aol.com.

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

ORGANIZATION/LIAISON PERSON

GESTALT ASSOCIATES FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY

Alan Cohen
201 E 34st St
NY, NY 10016
Gesalttassoc@aol.com

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briergib@rnetworx.com

GESTALT INSTITUTE of NEW ORLEANS

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Ateachworth@aol.com

GESTALT INSTITUTE of SAN FRANCISCO

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GESTALT INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER

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Arevell@aol.com

GESTALT THERAPY INSTITUTE OF LOS ANGELES

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wiedumir@aol.com

GESTALT THERAPY INSTITUTE of the PACIFIC

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Lynnejacobs@mail.Gestalttherapy.org
Gestalttherapy.org

GESTALT THERAPY INSTITUTE OF PHILADELPHIA

Phil Lichtenberg
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plichtenberg@erols.com

GESTALT THERAPY TRAINING CENTER NORTHWEST

Eva Gold
757 SE 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97214
gttcnw@aol.com

INSTITUTE for INTEGRATIVE PSYCHOTHERAPY

Richard Erskine
500 E 85th St
NY, NY 10028
Integpsych@cs.com

NEW YORK INSTITUTE for GESTALT THERAPY

Perry Klepner
302 W 79th St, 1C
NY, NY 10024
Perry302@aol.com

SERVICE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

by Bud Feder

AAGT has initiated a new program, called Service Exchange (SEP) and invites your participation, both as donor and recipient. Through this SEP, AAGT aims to further professional exchange and development among its members. We encourage participation in this program through which AAGT members will have access to complimentary professional and training services from other members, as well as the opportunity to provide such services to members who can benefit from their expertise.

HOW IT WORKS:

AAGT members may contact other AAGT members and request "Service Time." All AAGT members are invited to pledge four hours of professional time per calendar year providing one or more of the services listed below. Members may make a direct barter agreement with the requesting member, or may provide the service with nothing in return. No member is required to agree to a request. In the event that a member has completed the four-hours of service, or if the member opts not to agree to a particular request, said member may offer the requested services on a fee-for-service basis.

SERVICES IN THE PROGRAM:

- Phone consultation on a clinical issue or case
- Co-facilitation of another member's therapy group
- raining in a particular aspect of Gestalt Therapy
- Guest group supervision to an existing supervision group
- Mentoring a Gestalt institute student
- Seeing a client/couple/family along with the requesting therapist for consultative purposes
- Editing an article written by another member
- Other (as specified by the donor)

FOLLOWUP AND ASSESSMENT:

In order to assess as well as promote the program, AAGT members who perform a service will be requested to make a very brief report on their activities and the outcomes to the Service Exchange Committee. Permission granted, such activities may be featured in our publication—and perhaps others—and serve to promote individual members, our organization and Gestalt Therapy in general.

INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS:

Please note that AAGT members who participate in this SEP must carry their own professional liability insurance for whatever service they offer. AAGT as a tax-exempt membership organization does not offer clinical consultation or treatment and cannot be liable for such activities which are conducted under a member's aegis, nor does AAGT carry professional liability insurance, only administrative practice insurance (covering possibilities of fraud, theft, etc). This insurance does not cover individual members for their professional activities.

Thank you for considering participation in the Service Exchange Program, and please feel free to contact any committee member if you need any additional information or clarification.

THE SEP COMMITTEE

Dori Middleman, Chair, drdori@aol.com

Susan Gregory, gestaltsing@aol.com.

Joel Latner, pointcounterpoint@hotmail.com

Bud Feder, bfeder@comcast.net

CONFERENCE ADS

AAGT CONFERENCE PROGRAM/TABLES

ADS

IN PROGRAM:

full page -

(7.5" w x 10" h): \$150

half page -

(7.5" w x 5" h or

3.5" w x 10" h): \$85

quarter page -

(3.5" w x 5" h): \$50

**deadline for
ad submission is
Sept. 15, 2002**

TABLES:

Members -

Whole table: \$175.00

1/2 table: \$95.00,

Take-one spot \$35.00.

non-members:

Whole table is \$275.00. 1/2

table: \$175.00,

Take-one: \$50.00.

**To advertise in the
CONFERENCE PROGRAM
or to reserve a table please
contact:**

Bud Feder

198 Lorraine Ave.

Montclair NJ 07043

(973)-783-0740

Fax (810)-314-2490

bfeder@comcast.net

**for both payment
and info.**

AAGT

WEB



www.aagt.org

**REGISTER
FOR THE 2002
CONFERENCE
ONLINE**



CALL FOR PROCESS GROUP LEADERS

Our PROCESS GROUPS are an integral part of AAGT Conferences. They are a unique Gestalt Therapy approach to conferencing. Consisting of small groups of ten to twelve participants, Process Groups meet throughout the conference to orient, discuss, examine, share, risk, and understand. By stimulating, supporting and clarifying, they help build a ground for the conference, especially pertinent for the theme of "Holding the Heat: Conflict, Creativity, Contact." They contribute to the ongoing creation of the conference as members bring their Process Group experience to their participation in workshops and other conference activities. Process Groups are the self-process of the conference.

Each group has two "leaders/facilitators" who support conference participants exploring their workshop and community experiences, interests, doubts, confusions, curiosity, satisfactions as well as dissatisfactions. The process group is not group therapy or a leader-led topical group. Rather it is an opportunity for a Gestalt Therapy experience of people in contact learning together.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you are an experienced group leader we invite you to share your expertise. If you have been a process group leader in the past we invite you to bring back your experience. We need less experienced persons who wish to contribute to this conference and learn about process groups. We also need members of our international community and minority groups whom so importantly contribute to the diversity that is fundamental to our community.

In order to make the application for process group leader more convenient we are pre-approving members who served as process group leaders at past conferences. To register you will need to email or register by regular mail specifying when you served as a process group leader, whether you wish to be considered experienced and provide current contact information.

There will be further information as the Conference develops a training/support and orientation on the Wednesday afternoon of the Conference, and meetings of the Process Group Leaders for support and contact several times during the Conference.

Please fill out the application form on next page and return it as soon as possible or for further information contact:

PERRY KLEPNER
302 West 79th Street
New York, NY 10024
Telephone: 212.362.7827
E-Mail: Perry302@aol.com

AAGT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Holding The Heat: Conflict, Creativity, Contact
November 6-10, St. Petersburg Florida

APPLICATION FOR PROCESS GROUP LEADER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: Home: _____

Work: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Previous Training In Gestalt Therapy: _____

Previous Process Group Experience: When? _____

I have a preference to co-lead with _____

Please consider me as

A new or less experienced Process Group Leader.

An experienced Process Group Leader.

Any additional information you believe relevant: _____

Please Return ASAP
Please mail or e-mail application to:
Perry Klepner
302 West 79th Street, 1C
N.Y. N.Y. 10024
perry302@aol.com

For Information: Perry can be reached by phone at: 212.362.7827

WORK-STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR AAGT CONFERENCE

Nancy Woldt, Work-Study Coordinator

AAGT and the Conference Planning Committee will be offering a number of Work-Study positions for the AAGT Conference, November 6-10, 2002. Work-Study provides an ideal opportunity for people to participate in the Conference activities as they unfold and at the same time reduce your Conference fees and providing a valuable service to the association.

A Work-Study commitment requires serving two 4-hour shifts during the course of the 5-day Conference in exchange for a \$96.00 reduction in your Conference Registration Fee.

Work-Study duties may include a number of valuable opportunities to meet and mingle with folks attending the Conference—these include administrative assistance with Registration and Continuing Education, supporting the Conference Coordinators, troubleshooting for the Logistics' Coordinator and hosting Guest Presenters.

Interested persons must contact Nancy Woldt, AAGT Work-Study Coordinator and should do so prior to submitting your registration materials. Nancy may be contacted by phone: 330-673-8729; fax: 330-673-3101; email: NANSELW@aol.com; or snailmail: 511 Beryl Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240.

Remember, THE EARLY BIRDS GET THE WORMS! Contact Nancy early to enhance your chances of becoming one of the Work-Study participants in our great Conference.



gtip

gestalt therapy institute of the pacific

ON-GOING TRAINING PROGRAMS IN CONTEMPORARY RELATIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY IN LOS ANGELES

**SAMPLER: A TASTE OF GESTALT THERAPY
September 14 Santa Monica Fee \$30**

ON-GOING TRAINING

5 week-ends of experiential & didactic training

WINTER RESIDENTIAL

March 27-April 4 Casa de Maria, Santa Barbara
Intensive community experience of learning,
practicing and living with principles of
relational gestalt therapy.

CEU credits available.
For more information contact Lynne Jacobs.
tel: (310)-446-9720
e-mail: LynneJacobs@gestalttherapy.org
visit our website: www.gestalttherapy.org

The Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

announces its

Sixth International Conference

to be held November 6-10, 2002, St. Petersburg, Florida

REGISTRATION FORM

Join Gestalt therapists from around the world for:

- Plenary Sessions • Two-hour Workshops • Process Groups
- Community Building Activities • Interest Group Meetings
- Special Events • Continuing Education Credits

CONFERENCE FEES*:

AAGT Member (see opportunity to join included in this registration announcement):

- Registration (postmarked between July 1st & September 30th) - \$400
- "At the Door" Registration (postmarked after September 30th or accomplished on site) - \$450

Non-Member:

- Registration (postmarked between July 1st & September 30th) - \$450
- "At the Door" Registration (postmarked after September 30th or accomplished on site) - \$500

Student (defined as full-time enrollment in an academic program):

Students have a choice to make. They can opt for complete conference attendance, which affords them access to all the breakfasts, luncheons, workshops, plenaries, community building activities, special events, and participation in process groups (all of which is recommended), or they can choose to purchase day passes (offered as an outreach incentive), to attend workshops, community building activities, and plenary sessions, and to pay for their own food (day passes do not include participation in process groups). Those students choosing full conference participation should contact the scholarship committee to inquire about work-study and other possibilities that might offset expenses.

- Student, full conference fee - \$200
- Student, full conference fee ("at the door" registration) - \$250
- Day Passes - \$25/day.

*Confirmation will be mailed to you. There will be a \$25 processing fee for all cancellations.

No refunds will be granted after October 15, 2002.

Make checks payable to: AAGT Conference (checks must be drawn on US banks in US nds)

Please fill out the following information and indicate whether or not you are

- joining the AAGT at this time or are
- a current, paid up member:

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
COUNTRY: _____
TELEPHONE (WORK) _____ TELEPHONE (HOME) _____
FAX NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

You may also register using the secure server option at the AAGT website <http://www.aagt.org>.
If you encounter trouble with the website, please contact the conference Chair (Chuck Kanner).

Mail or FAX registration to:

Bud Feder • 198 Lor raine Ave. • Montclair, NJ 07043-1915 USA • FAX: 810.314.2490

YOU MUST REGISTER YOURSELF AT THE HOTEL SEPARATELY.

To register at the hotel, the Tradewinds Resort Sirata, Call 1-800-237-0707, their group reservations desk. Press 2 when prompted. Identify yourself as with the AAGT "Holding the Heat conference.

The hotel room rate is \$135.00 per night. Suites as available are \$175.00. Optional, at \$12.00 per night is an amenities package, which includes parking, local phone calls, toll free operator assisted calls, fitness center, beach cabanas, tennis court use, water trykes, paddle boats, sending or receiving faxes use of business center computers. You can see if there are any suites left, if you like, (at \$175.00 per night), or specify bed types. The price goes up for more than two people per room.

If you need help finding a roommate, we will soon post a bulletin board on our interactive web site (www.aagtonline.org <<http://www.aagtonline.org>>) that may help you connect once you have registered for the conference..

AAGT MEMBERSHIP:
Full Professional Status - \$100
New Professional or Semi-Retired - \$50
Student - \$25
Organizational - see pg. 5

Indicate:	_____
Conference Fee:	_____
Membership:	_____
Scholarship Donation	_____
Total Enclosed:	_____
for meals we provide	_____
indicate if you are vegetarian	_____
or have other special needs	_____

Master Card of Visa payment accepted
expiration date: _____

Master Card or Visa #: _____
Signature: _____

WORK/STUDY

Work-Study Opportunities for AAGT Conference 2002

**A Work-Study
commitment requires
serving two 4-hour shifts
during the course of the
5-day Conference in
exchange for a \$96.00
reduction in your
Conference Registration
Fee.**

**Interested persons
must contact
Nancy Woldt, AAGT Work-
Study Coordinator and
should do so prior to
submitting your
registration materials.**

**Nancy may be contacted
by phone: 330-673-8729;
fax: 330-673-3101; email:
NANSELW@aol.com;
or snailmail:
511 Beryl Drive, Kent,
Ohio 44240.**

EXPERIMENTS IN COMMUNITY BUILDING ("ECB") FACILITATORS NEEDED

The "Experiments in Community Building" Track will provide again this year, perhaps more potently than even before, a structure for discussing topics important to us that emerge at the time of our conference. This year our conference theme "Holding the Heat: Conflict, Creativity, Contact" has become amplified by the grave, unforeseen events of September 11, 2001, and their aftermath. We are experiencing threats of annihilation and increased dread. Terrorism and War are upon us and threaten to expand in ways we cannot control or even imagine. In this climate our very coming together offers some solace. Our conference will draw our attention to all aspects of conflict in ways that move toward better grounding and support for creative process. The "Experiments in Community Building" meetings will provide a forum for what becomes figural during our days together in St. Petersburg. What we find to say to each other may help us discover new directions and resources.

The ECB track was originally developed for our 1999 AAGT Conference in New York as a structure to facilitate a series of self-organizing meetings where conference attendees could join together around topics emerging in the here and now of conference time, drawn from their interests and excitements at the opening meetings of the association and conference. This year there will be five ECB meetings throughout the conference, one for each workshop slot. We will post the chosen topics so that you will have an opportunity to know and select them as you wish.

The ECB meetings themselves will not have predetermined structures. We will have experienced facilitators to assist each group in organizing itself to further the group's focus and process. Formats will emerge from group interactions and could range from theoretical discussions to active experiments. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. These sessions will constitute a cumulative experiment in the application of Gestalt principles to issues of community life. Participating in this track by attending and/or facilitating is an important and exciting way to contribute to and impact our experience together at the conference.

A core committee has formed which includes Brian O'Neill, chair, Jack Aylward, Philip Brownell, Bud Feder, Zelda Friedman, Susan Gregory, Philip Lichtenberg, Malcolm Parlett, and Peter Phillippon. We are seeking additional members and would like you to consider joining us in the forming and facilitating of this year's ECB conference experience. We urge you to contact:

Brian O'Neill
Boneill@uow.edu.au
or
Zelda Friedman
ZelNorm@aol.com

to let us know of your interest and ideas.

RIFT TASK FORCE REPORT FOLLOWUP

Editor's note: Last month the President's Corner was devoted to reporting on the work of the task force that met to try to heal the rift that has developed in the organization. This article contains reactions that several members have had to the content of that report. The Editor would also like to extend her personal apologies for running the original article without checking with those who were named in it.

FROM PERRY KLEPNER:

Hi Carol and everyone.

The following are some thoughts I put together following reading the AAGT newsletter item on "the rift." These arose as a reaction to my being referenced in that article as well as the New York Institute. Carol, I address this to you as the principal organizer of that article but felt it appropriate since the AAGT newsletter is widely distributed to include others who as members of the EC and New York Institute I would want to share my views with. I hope that in the frame of "Holding The Heat" they will be taken with caring and positive intentions.

Love Perry

Multiple Realities As a Source of Conflict, Creativity and Contact

The Summer 2002 AAGT Newsletter article "Report Of The Rift Task Force Meeting" contained a number of insightful and positive statements reflecting progress in bridging the gap in understanding the various perspectives which AAGT, to its noteworthy credit, attempts to hold. In doing so I found a number of statements to be incorrect, uninformed and inappropriate.

Carol Brockmon reported: "A number of strong proponents of the (misleadingly characterized) "New York" or "East Coast," group were actively solicited by Bud, Carol and Cynthia to attend the meeting among those were Zelda Friedman, Carl Hodges Susan Gregory and Perry Klepner. While a couple of them spoke to the consultant in the end none attended despite the EC's offer of help with travel expenses."

In fact, I was not, repeat not, approached or solicited by anyone, at any time, in any email or personal exchange to attend the meeting. Nor did anyone speak to me of help or travel expenses. My name was mentioned by you, Carol, in an email to Bud as someone who could be approached. I was not approached, solicited or offered anything. I was aware people were being considered for invitation and was very much aware at the time that my presence was not invited.

Also, I hardly think myself, Carl or Susan were the strongest proponents or the most outspoken on issues of "the rift." Those persons, I believe, were neither mentioned nor considered for inclusion in the rift meeting. I thought at the time that I was not approached for the same reason, although I don't agree with that impression. You'll recall, Carol, I initiated a breakfast meeting at the Dallas conference between prominent members of the New York Institute and the Southwest that included yourself and Isabel. Also, in community discussions in Dallas, I and others at the New York Institute were open to diverse forms of conference presentations such as the Southwest was proposing as long as the approach being followed was made clear. Since I consider myself available for dialogue I felt, at the time, left out of the rift meeting—a little like not being asked to join in a schoolyard ball game and trying to understand why (although it is known that I don't like to travel). With regard to being solicited I think it would be an essential practice to "Fact Check" when referring to individuals by name, as is standard practice in newspaper reporting.

Following the above reference, you state in the paragraph below: "It felt to me that a lot of rancor dissolved in the course of the meeting for the participants who 'showed up,' and I have..."

Your sentence references people who did not "show up." (The quotes are yours.) This quoted emphasis I take to hold a subtle negative judgment building on the reference to myself and others above who did not attend. This seems unfortunate since there are many reasons why people did not attend the meeting which don't need to be judged.

Isabel Fredericson states: "Another thought. Among all the factors you mentioned about the source of the rift. I think one important one was omitted—the history of the different institutes. New York has a history of believing sincerely in anarchy as a way of social behavior and I think that has a great deal of influence on what has happened—their reaction to power in any perceived form....I don't know how current belief is now."

"Anarchy as a way of social behavior" has a meaning that eludes me. Anarchy means acting against government or rule of law. In a social context such behavior could be quite repulsive. As the New York Institute President 1993-95, I assure you we have a constitution, rules for governance, an executive committee and bylaws. We operate by rules of procedure which put a heavy emphasis on hearing and understanding people's concerns and consensus. In a social context I would call our approach "intimacy with differentiation," a phrase used in our bylaws. This is, I think, a radical view of organizing. The workshop you refer to I am not aware of. However, I can well imagine someone using the term to highlight Gestalt Therapy's historical and philosophical roots in Paul Goodman's writings which emphasize aggressing and destructuring existing social, political, cultural norms in the service of growth. This, in Gestalt Therapy is the equivalent of destructuring fixed gestalten in the service of contact and creativity. In interpersonal exchange it hopefully results in strong feelings, perception, action and contact. In relation to power it is wary, alert and available to engage and "be/work with." The very ingredients essential to the creation and organization of AAGT in which members of the New York Institute were quite active. New York Institute

members, in my opinion, are aggressive in critically examining “what is” and this can be mistaken as a disrespect for existing structures, beliefs, values, etc., which is not accurate. It is a respect coming from “paying attention to” and taking what we are dealing with seriously, whether politically, socially and with respect to power. This, in my view, derives from a healthy respect for ourselves that relies on not taking our experience for granted but rather attempting a “fresh view” of things.” The New York Institute membership value dialogue, relationship, supporting the voice of the majority and minority positions as an essential part of relating.

Cynthia Cook, after presenting an excellent, insightful analysis, then seems to need to defend or explain myself, Carl and Susan by pointing out that we demonstrated willingness to engage in dialogue and being open to diverse viewpoints. Cynthia you state: “The only other point I want to mention is regarding the Design of the Design Committee Report and your comment Carol that the “hardest liners” of both ends were not included: Certainly Susan Gregory, Carl Hodges and Perry Klepner have been considered hard-liners, and they all participated in the committee.”

I am certainly honored to be included in any list with Carl and Susan, (although, personally, I wonder about Zelda being left out, although she is always somewhat divine). Such a discussion is fine with me for our EC discussions. I understand your intent and meaning in the context your labeling us hard liners. However, the context of our newsletter is that it has a national and international distribution and is being read by members, non-members, people who know us and those that do not. Therefore, I take exception to being labeled a “hard liner” in this venue. Such labeling, even with your positive intent, could negatively impact people’s impressions of myself and others as they won't have the context that you intend.

The whole is different than the sum of parts: To recapitulate. In an article describing an attempt to heal “the rift” all the references to persons participating are positive and supportive while three people who did not attend are named twice in the context of being non participating despite offers of help, and hard liners. Also, as New York Institute members they possibly have an attitude valuing anarchy. It is possible I am overreacting to this. This may be because I am from New York, have been bombed by hard line anarchists of the Al Qaeda, at a time when daily news reports refer to other hard lines or anarchists throwing gasoline bombs to disrupt world economic conferences, and at a time that Palestinians and Israeli hard liners do not cross their countries to engage in dialogues to heal their rifts.

To provide the comments made in this AAGT newsletter further context, I propose this letter be printed in the next AAGT newsletter. However, because that will take three or more months perhaps some provision for an email distribution should be made.

Love Perry

FROM CYNTHIA COOK:

Dear Perry (and all):

Thank you for both what you wrote and how you wrote it. I very much appreciate both.

Though I was not formally responsible for inviting anyone to participate in the meeting, I do recall being in discussions regarding who to invite, and your name came up regularly and with positive feelings. At the time we had also been planning the conference planning committee meeting in Florida, which you had said you would not attend since you were not comfortable flying. I assumed that this would also apply to the meeting in California, and passed along this information, which I imagine served to discourage efforts to involve you. For that I am sincerely sorry.

I also understand how my references to you and others may have seemed “defensive.” My sense is that I was pointing out a context in which you had all participated (“showed up”)—in fact, you have never withdrawn, and have stayed involved and available. In Dallas I experienced in you in the forefront of efforts to create dialogue, and then as now, I respect and appreciate the careful and kind tone you have taken. I also appreciate what you are saying about attributions taken out of context, and I experience this as one of the most difficult aspects of reporting back from a process like this—how to be true to the experience and yet sensitive to the fact that what we write is going to a much wider audience, that lacks all the context.

I did try to qualify what I wrote, and I can see your point.

I am certainly in favor of distributing your comments (and any others) to a wider audience. Any one person's perspective is going to be skewed, and the only solution is to include more perspectives. Carol did run her write-up by all the participants before publishing it, and to my chagrin, none of us picked up on the slant you are describing—although in retrospect it seems so obvious! And so the range of voices participating in the dialogue grows wider...which to me seems like a good and necessary thing. I believe it was clear to all of us at the SW meeting that the meeting was just a step in a process that needs to continue. And now it is continuing. I am glad to have your voice in particular included, since I have come to consider you a model for speaking directly, honestly and compassionately.

Thanks again for your thoughtful and thought-provoking comments.

Take care, Cynthia

FROM ISABEL FREDERICSON:

Dear Perry,

I appreciate hearing your voice and perspective on the report in the newsletter of the “rift” meeting. In regard to my comments about anarchy, I said that belief in it was prevalent in the history of the New York Institute. According to an article by Elaine Kepner, other members agreed with Paul Goodman and in their deliberations practiced it. I do believe that history, as background does have an affect on the present, although it may not be apparent. I did not say that it was true presently, if you recall. Unless my mind is playing tricks

again, I distinctly recall a workshop at the AAGT conference in San Francisco in which several members of the New York Institute said that they personally did still believe in social anarchy as a political system.

I know that it is hard to be clear with one another through indirect means as writing; it is hard enough face to face. The important part is to keep talking with one another without rancor.

Isabel

FROM SUSAN GREGORY:

<< The important part is to keep talking with one another without rancor. >>

Dear Isabel,

I entirely agree with your statement above. I appreciate hearing from you. I do not feel rancorous, and hope that my letter did not convey that tone. I am happy that our organization is going forward. I look forward to seeing you in Florida.

Susan

FROM PERRY KLEPNER:

Hi Isabel and all.

Isabel, your relevant quotes in the newsletter read: "New York has a history of believing sincerely in anarchy as a way of social behavior, and I think that has a great deal of influence on what has happened—their relation to power in any perceived form."..... "Of course that is not everyone in the institute as Bud demonstrated. I don't know how current that belief is now."

It would follow that if the belief "in anarchy as a way of social behavior had a great deal of influence on what has happened" it would still be a prevalent belief.

My response was intended to clarify that anarchy as it is defined and thought of commonly is quite different from how Paul Goodman identified himself as a against the status quo, a social revolutionary, etc., i.e., Paul Goodman's polemic and, also, misapplied when describing the New York Institute fifty years later in terms of how we associate socially and with respect to power. That portion of my statement was meant to be informative of the current belief today.

Love Perry

FROM BUD FEDER:

THANKS,PERRY, FOR SENDING ME YOUR 'RIFT REPORT' RESPONSE, WHICH I HAD NOT GOTTEN PREVIOUSLY. MY FIRST REACTION TO IT IS AESTHETIC RATHER THAN POLITICAL. I FIND IT TO BE A BEAUTIFULLY ARTICULATED STATEMENT—VERY SATISFYING PROSE. MY MORE MUNDANE COMMENTS FOLLOW BELOW—IN CAPS. LOVE,BUD

Hi Carol and everyone. The following are some thoughts I put together following reading the AAGT newsletter item on "the rift." These arose as a reaction to my being referenced in that article as well as the New York Institute. Carol, I address this to you as the principal organizer of that article but felt it appropriate since the AAGT newsletter is widely distributed to include others who as members of the EC and New York Institute I would want to share my views with. I hope that in the frame of "Holding The Heat" they will be taken with caring and positive intentions.

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Carol Brockmon reported: A number of strong proponents of the

I AGREE ABOUT THIS IS A MISLEADING DESIGNATION AND EXPRESSED IT IN LA

(misleadingly characterized New York or East Coast, group) were actively solicited by Bud, Carol and Cynthia to attend the meeting among those were Zelda Friedman, Carl Hodges Susan Gregory and Perry Klepner. While a couple of them spoke to the consultant in the end none attended despite the ECs offer of help with travel expenses.

In fact, I was not, repeat not, approached or solicited by anyone, at any time, in any email or personal exchange to attend the meeting. Nor did anyone speak to me of help travel expenses.

I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF MY SOLICITING YOU.

My name was mentioned by you Carol in an email to Bud as someone who could be approached. I was not approached, solicited or offered anything. I was aware people were being considered for invitation and was very much aware at the time that my presence was not invited.

SO PERHAPS THIS WAS MY OVERSIGHT; SOMETHING I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO.

Also, I hardly think myself, Carl or Susan were the strongest proponents or the most outspoken on issues of the rift. Those persons, I believe, were neither mentioned or considered for inclusion in the rift meeting. I thought at the time that I was not approached for the same reason, although I don't agree with that impression. You'll recall Carol I initiated a breakfast meeting at the Dallas conference between prominent members of the New York Institute and the Southwest that included yourself and Isabel. Also, in community discussions in Dallas, I and others at the New York Institute were open to diverse forms of conference presentations such as the Southwest was proposing as long as the approach being followed was made clear. Since I consider myself available for dialogue I felt, at the time, left out of the rift meeting—a little like not being asked to join in a schoolyard ball game and trying to understand why (although it is known that I don't like to travel).

I DO RECALL SOMEONE SAYING THAT AT THAT TIME YOU WERE OPPOSED TO FLYING. PERHAPS THAT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE (MY?) FAILURE TO ASK YOU TO COME.

With regard to being solicited I think it would be an essential practice to Fact Check when referring to individuals by name as is standard practice in newspaper reporting.

Following the above reference, you state in the paragraph below: "It felt to me that a lot of rancor dissolved in the course of the meeting for the participants who 'showed up,' and I have..."

Your sentence references people who did not show up. (The quotes are yours.) This quoted emphasis I take to hold a subtle negative judgment building on the reference to myself and others above who did not attend.

I DON'T THINK THIS WAS MEANT

This seems unfortunate since there are many reasons why people did not attend the meeting which don't need to be judged.

Isabel Fredericson states: "Another thought. Among all the factors you mentioned about the source of the rift. I think one important one was omitted—the history of the different institutes. New York has a history of believing sincerely in anarchy as a way of social behavior and I think that has a great deal of influence on what has happened—their reaction to power in any perceived form.....I don't know how current belief is now."

However, I can well imagine someone using the term to highlight Gestalt Therapy's historical and philosophical roots in Paul Goodman's writings which emphasize aggressing and destructuring existing social, political, cultural norms in the service of growth. This, in Gestalt Therapy is the equivalent of destructuring fixed gestalten in the service of contact and creativity. In interpersonal exchange it hopefully results in strong feelings, perception, action and contact. In relation to power it is wary, alert and available to engage and "be/work with." The very ingredients essential to the creation and organization of AAGT.....

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I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY; AS A LONGTIME MEMBER [AND DEVOTEE] F THE NYIGT I AM VERY PROUD OF OUR PIONEERING EFFORTS AND ALSO OUR EVOLUTION TOWARD A MORE RESPONSIBLE ETHIC. AS FOR OUR BEING 'ANARCHIC' I CAN DO NO BETTER THAT SAY 'AMEN' TO YOUR OUTSTANDING ARTICULATION TO OUR APPROACH,WHICH IN NO WAY APPROACHES ANARCHY.

Cynthia Cook after presenting an excellent, insightful analysis then seems to need to defend or explain myself, Carl and Susan by pointing out that we demonstrated willingness to engage in dialogue and being open to diverse viewpoints. Cynthia you state: The only other point I want to mention is regarding the Design of the Design Committee Report and your comment Carol that the hardest liners of both ends were not included: Certainly Susan Gregory, Carl Hodges and Perry Klepner have been considered hard-liners, and they all participated in the committee.

I am certainly honored to be included in any list with Carl and Susan, (although, personally, I wonder about Zelda being left out, although she is always somewhat divine). Such a discussion is fine with me for our EC discussions. I understand your intent and meaning in the context your labeling us hard liners.

I DON'T THINK CYNTHIA HERSELF LABELED YOU 'HARD-LINERS'. I BELIEVE SHE WAS ADDRESSING THE FACT THAT OTHERS HAVE DONE SO—AGAIN IN MY OPINION ERRONEOUSLY.

However, the context of our newsletter is that it has a national and international distribution and is being read by members, non-members, people who know us and those that do not. Therefore, I take exception to being labeled a hard liner in this venue. Such labeling, even with your positive intent, could negatively impact people's impressions of myself and others as they won't have the context that you intend.

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To provide the comments made in this AAGT newsletter further context, I propose this letter be printed in the next AAGT newsletter.

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS REQUEST

However, because that will take three or more months perhaps some provision for an email distribution should be made.

IN MY VIEW THE RIFT THING HAS FADED INTO THE BACKGROUND. I WOULD PREFER TO LET IT STAY THERE AS OUR EXCITING CONFERENCE ENERGY IS EMERGING VERY FORCEFULLY INTO THE FOREGROUND. I DO UNDERSTAND YOUR INDIGNATION SO I AM OPEN TO DISCUSSING THIS PROPOSAL [A SPECIAL EMAIL] FURTHER.

FROM SUSAN GREGORY:

Dear Zelda,

I am touched by your ongoing energetic effort to bring forward the details of your present experience in this conversation as it relates to a number of past experiences in the group; and am moved, as well, by your passion around this.

My experience right now is different from yours; and is familiar to me. I feel a withdrawal of my investment in the discussion. I have no intention of withdrawing from AAGT and my activities in it, which I find enlivening. What I mean is that I am experiencing a kind of zoning out around these topics, and an emotional giving in/giving up. I am unfocused in my thoughts and feel that I have retreated emotionally and cognitively to a state before teeth—hence no chewing. I notice that I wish to disengage from the discussion, although I do care to maintain contact with the people who are participating in it. I understand what I'm experiencing as both a kind of giving up for now, about which I feel regret, and a kind of sensible retreat, around which I feel relief.

Thank you for writing with clarity and sharing your present process.

Love, Susan

FROM ANSEL WOLDT:

Dear Perry, Bud and Other Copyholders:

First, Perry—I read your well-stated (and as Bud said, “eloquent”) response to the rift report in the newsletter. I appreciate your thoroughness and forthrightness in addressing your concerns.

Second, Bud—Thank you for your simple, candid, honest, loving, caring responses to Perry. I wish I had said the same things as that is the way I feel in whatever part I had in the whole “shebang.”

Third, Carol, Cynthia, Isabel, Zelda, Sarah, and EC members—I read your messages carefully, downloaded them in running sequence, and reread them with considerable emotion. I feel badly that however hard we (not just EC or CPC) try to do things to the best of our ability and with nothing but good will intended, there is inevitably a down side and hurting hearts. Hopefully we can do as Bud suggested and leave this behind us as the excitement mounts for having our conference.

Love and Hugs to You All, Ansel

FROM ZELDA FRIEDMAN:

Hi Perry and all,

Thanks so much for today's note. I have not heard from anyone else and did not receive Ansel or Bud's emails either. Perhaps they were sent out in individual email.

For me, the difficulties posed in the newsletter article are still foreground. I tried to put them aside yet in the further recent email dialogue among this small group my nerve endings again became on fire. I am trying to continue chewing in a careful (vs. retroflective-obsessive) manner. I am tuning into what Isabel said, and I quote her, “I do believe that history, as background does have an affect on the present, although it may not be apparent.” I appreciate this thought, Isabel, and I join you in it although the selection of history that comes to my mind is different than the selection you presented. Your selection, in combination with the newsletter distortions, made me feel rancor at the moment. I needed it to fire my writing and my rancor has subsided and been replaced by a desire for further shared explorations.

There have been years of power shifts and struggles in the background that is AAGT's history. The rift meeting and its aftermath still show me the layers and layers of those struggles. I think if we could hear each other and name those struggles, putting aside for a moment the power needs of different groups and addressing the process of the development of the (mutual? rancor) we might have a better chance of holding the heat for a (in my opinion) higher value...one aspect of which is keeping us together, another aspect of which is necessarily “holding the heat!” I am recalling putting out a public statement that was objecting in a strong manner to the style of conference-making that was developing and seeming to take over AAGT in a consuming way by the time of the San Francisco conference. And I am wondering if in some way I am now being paid back for it by what has just happened in the newsletter. I want to take responsibility for having done that. It was painful and startling, I am sure, to those who were working so hard to make the conference at that time. And yet, also, I remembering the frustration of feeling at that time that the conference-making style left no way (and seemingly no wish on the part of those with that style) to listen to another side. If we are trying to continue as an association that is bringing all of us together, we have to have a way to hear each other now and to hear each other then as well. If my position could not be heard in an orderly way, naturally I would have to either go away from the association or I would have to get my position out in a way that some would find damaging to them and their desire to bring their style and benefits into our mix. I have always argued for inviting all into the mix and finding a way to do that that did not keep us undermining each other, and did keep us listening to each other. I can't exactly apologize for the affects of the statements that a few of us put out just preceding the San Francisco conference (not without blood, sweat, tears and concern, I assure you all) but in a desire to not have mutual listening cut off in our association. The struggle since has been to try to be listened to and maybe to have that effort then seen as “anarchistic.” I can understand that it must feel terrible to be working in a direction and have someone come along and totally object to that and feel that they are labeling and misunderstanding what I am about. In fact, this is what keeps happening, I think, in the power struggles, shifting around the different aspects of our struggles.

The above is what, so far, comes up for me in the chewing, and I present it to you all now as the recent updated form of Zelda's version.

Love, Zelda

FROM PERRY KLEPNER:

In a message dated 5/3/2002 3:23:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time, Zel Norm writes:

<< warts and al >>

Hey Zelda, that won't fly with me. Your and Susan's comments are clear, bright, eloquent and quite beautiful—as you are. You both make music that Fritz might be dancing to, in heaven, if he were lucky.

Thank you for bringing light to my/our vision of your perspective.

Love Perry

FROM CAROL BROCKMON:

Dear Zelda:

I love hearing what you have to say, and appreciate the way you hang in, stay available, and keep communicating. I am feeling like hanging in there with you, and am interested in lots more conversation. Email is a frustrating way for me to do this. What about a conference call or a meeting of whoever can do it and wants to converse in New York? Not about a "rift, but an open hearted exploration?

I also want everyone who can to check out this web site. Explore it carefully, and see if you think their model has anything to offer us. <http://www.publicconversations.org> I think it's useful. Love, Carol

FROM PERRY KLEPNER:

Hi Zelda and all. I wanted to express appreciation for your viewpoint and how it was expressed. Love Perry

Hi Ansel. Thanks for your comments. Similar to Cynthia I have not received email responses from Carol and Sarah and would appreciate your sending them to me. I saw Bud last night and he had not received my original email so I was going to email Carol tonight to inquire when I received yours. I didn't hear in Bud's email the suggestion that we should move on from the rift subject or the newsletter article and my response. I consider that still to be decided. There were presentations made about me that were inaccurate, and statements made about the New York Institute that don't represent it in

our national/international newsletter. Do you want to leave those statements uncorrected? I agree with Bud that the newsletter article and the rift are fading to the ground. However, I see our dealing in a responsive manner with the difficulties posed by the newsletter article, as our living up to our goals and ideals of the conference. If we can't do it, who can.

Love Perry

Hi Cynthia, thank you for your response and acknowledgment. I understand the various points you make and how "in the moment" a perspective can be missed. I appreciate your capacity to extend your vision to another point of view.

Love Perry

Hi Carol. In your response to my April 28 email regarding the AAGT newsletter you state:

"Dear Perry, Susan and Zelda:

First of all, I deeply appreciate your writing in on this. Your response to the article is important to me. Second, I have really attended to whether I meant any insult in the "showed up" remark. I know I did not mean to be snide or underhanded, and you probably know that's not my style. I really regret any hurt that caused. My conclusion is that my frustration at not having more participation for whatever good reasons ran away with me, and that's what you saw. I wish I had phrased it differently. I apologize for an insult.

Zelda, we have already talked, and I feel in a pretty good place about it with you. I'm certainly open to more dialogue.

Perry, I am shocked, dismayed and embarrassed about my inaccuracy about your participation. I felt sure that other EC members were working as hard to engage you as I was Susan and Zelda. Actually the process was discussed in at least one EC call you must not have attended. As Cynthia mentioned, she had told us strongly that she was sure you wouldn't want to fly, so whoever's job it was must have shut down the inquiry. I was under the impression that you had specifically refused. I have no question about your goodwill and interest, and very much wanted you to be there. I thought I knew the facts, but I didn't. I didn't know I needed to check further, and I'm sorry I didn't.

Susan, I didn't characterize you as a hard liner. Actually, my original comment in the description of the "design of the design" committee was that the hardest liners from both ends did not participate. Although I modified that for the final letter after Cynthia's response, she quotes it in her letter.

As far as the philosophical issues and descriptions go—I think Isabel's real point was that there are very different assumptions and ideas that we each come with, yet we act as though we're speaking the same language. I'm looking for decent dialogue about these issues, even the hardest ones. I'd rather have the room to make some mistakes and keep talking than have to be so correct that it's hard to tell the truth about where I am. This particular exchange makes me feel hopeful that we can have that dialogue: that even if we get a little prickly, there is still good will at the bottom. It would feel great to me to have email or other dialogues about the various directions in which Gestalt has grown. Anarchy in all its meanings to each of us would be a fine topic, as would all the notions of what decent process is.

What I like most about this conversation is that it feels more like a difficult conversation, and less like a power struggle. I do believe we are all in it together. Love, Carol"

Dear Carol and everyone:

I have a number of reactions to your response. There are points you make that strike a very positive note and others ways I find your comments unresponsive. First, I very much appreciate your recognizing the error of misstating my position. I wish you not to be embarrassed and I appreciate the expression of frustration and negative impact of various references in the article was not intentional. I am thoroughly convinced in your positive intent as I am of everyone else in our wonderful organization—and I mean this sincerely. In any large undertaking such as we are involved and the overload of work that you have so courageously undertaken there will be errors. These are inevitable and do not reflect badly on the great work you have been doing that deserves all our praise and appreciation. You certainly have mine.

Secondly, I agree, of course, you “think Isabel's real point was that there are very different assumptions and ideas that we each come with, yet we act as though we're speaking the same language.” I'm not sure Isabel doesn't believe we sincerely believe in anarchy etc. However, your discussion obscures the actual meaning of anarchy and its association to the NY institute expressed in Isabel's letter and your agreement with the importance of her point in the context of a national-international newsletter. You are the president and others may not know what Isabel is meaning.

Thirdly, your response does not address for me the need to recognize and take Response-Ability for the gestalt of the article that I referred to in my email. The whole of the parts is indeed different from the parts. This oversight is easy to understand occurring and, I think, we need to recognize the pen is mightier than the sword—we are manipulating a powerful medium when issuing a newsletter. The journalism of the “Rift Article” in a metaphor for me is a large eight wheeler truck swaying across lanes on a highway with respect to appreciating the field of an international newsletter and how individuals and institutes are referred to and described. This is unintentional I'm sure, yet the impact is done. What makes it unfortunate further is the references to Susan, Carl and myself are so unrelated and unnecessary to the real story here. I think your obfuscating the word “anarchy.” Or you are not vested in an accurate public representation of the NY Institute—which I don't believe. In your not responding to my request for a public recognition of these points to correct the misstatement I feel unclear since you have countlessly demonstrated your courage and capacity to deal with difficult exchanges directly and take decisive action. I would like to put this matter behind us. I don't see it as a disaster, actually just the havoc that any large organization is subject to. However, it needs to be assimilated not obscured. Therefore, I would be glad to discuss this in any context but feel it necessary to address these specific points to you in written form as they are difficult to get across accurately in phone conversation and take a great deal of time in that context. I also find email a difficult medium.

You directed your response to myself, Susan and Zelda as opposed to the wider field of names that has been involved. I take this to be an oversight since I know you are a strong proponent of dialogue and I do feel the need to include the field that this discussion began with so as to not leave others hanging. I hope that that is not objectionable to you.

Love Perry

FROM CAROL BROCKMON:

Dear Perry: Thanks for your response. I addressed my reply to you, Susan and Zelda since you have written to me, and sent it to all because I do acknowledge a wider field. I hope we can see that as a difference in style. I'm glad, though not surprised to hear you essential goodwill and trust of my motives.

In relation to the “anarchy” discussion: I don't think I've done a very good job of expressing my own views, thoughts or process about this. I do see anarchy as a complex concept that is fluid and has meant many things at different times. To me, it is not always a pejorative word. In my early days in the women's movement we had endless discussions that remain alive for me. I remember an article now anthologized in “Radical Feminism” called “The tyranny of structurelessness” followed quickly by an article called “The Tyranny of Tyranny.” When Isabel made her comment, I thought, “Ohhh! We're in a discussion like that and weren't recognizing it.” It is a hard balance for me between maintaining enough spontaneity in my responses to be real and honest, and to anticipate all of the dimensions of the impact. Clearly, I was not as sensitive to the impact as I might have been. I'm sorry. I think I know more about it now.

You say:

“Thirdly, your response does not address for me the need to recognize and take Response-Ability for the gestalt of the article that I referred to in my email. The whole of the parts is indeed different from the parts. This oversight is easy to understand occurring and, I think, we need to recognize the pen is mightier than the sword—we are manipulating a powerful medium when issuing a newsletter. The journalism of the “Rift Article” in a metaphor for me is a large eight wheeler truck swaying across lanes on a highway with respect to appreciating the field of an international newsletter and how individuals and institutes are referred to and described. This is unintentional I'm sure, yet the impact is done. What makes it unfortunate further is the references to Susan, Carl and myself are so unrelated and unnecessary to the real story here.”

Perry, I thought it was important to put forward a statement of who the EC was looking to include. I think you and I were feeling different parts of the elephant. I certainly don't see the impact of the newsletter as nearly as powerful as you do.

"I think you're obfuscating the word 'anarchy.' Or you are not vested in an accurate public representation of the NY Institute—which I don't believe. In your not responding to my request for a public recognition of these points to correct the misstatement. I feel unclear since you have countlessly demonstrated your courage and capacity to deal with difficult exchanges directly and take decisive action."

Perry, do you mean by public recognition the publishing of this dialogue in the next newsletter? It has been my intention from the beginning to do so, as I think I implied in the article itself. If you need that stated clearly, here it is. If you want something more specific from me, tell me what it is and we'll talk about it. I am interested in accurate representation of everyone's point of view.

I'm glad to have this email exchange. I didn't mean to avoid it, but to expand on it. I'm glad my email finally reached you. Have you any idea what the glitch was yet?

Love, Carol

FROM CAROL BROCKMON:

Perry:

Just one more clarification: I am all for keeping this dialogue alive, as I have said, in a number of ways. That is, in the newsletter, by conference call, by meeting. I am not in favor of Email dialogue with the whole membership now. This is because of the way it focuses AAGT energy, which needs to be on the conference and membership and growth. This rift is one issue of many that deserve attention, and not one to be accentuated and privileged in a separate way from others. While I see that some feelings might be salved by treating further dialogue on this issue as an emergency now, I don't see how AAGT would be helped. Can you see this as a legitimate concern? Love, Carol

FROM ZELDA FRIEDMAN:

Hello all,

I have now received from Perry Carol's response to Perry, Susan and myself dated 4/28 along with Perry's response to it of 5/4. This is my first view of Carol's letter. I seem to not receive some of the emails addressed to me and so if I have appeared to neglect responding to any of you it will not have been by my choice but by some lapse of technologically-failed communication.

And now I have Carol's response and PS dated 5/4, as well. I have an URGENT feeling in regard to the "PS." I would like more discussion in this group before a decision is made as to the next step needed to correct the position in which we now find ourselves.

I am wearing two hats. In my AAGT hat I want there to be no major interference with the energy that needs to be focused on the conference and membership and growth. However, the rift meeting is an issue that deserved and was given attention in a way that developed, prompted and required this current dialogue. This dialogue is part of an ongoing process which began (I believe) in interactions between some caring and interested members of the SW Region and the EC. The reporting of the Rift Meeting in the Newsletter has led me to put on my New York hat, as well, and I don't feel ready or able to take it off just yet.

I have been re-reading the Newsletter report of the Rift Meeting wearing both my AAGT and my NY hats and I find the bias against New York unmistakable in spite of the good intentions of the writers. Please bear with me as I point out the 5 instances in which New York is mentioned.

#1. Carol, in her description of the Manhattan Beach tapes, has understandably watched them from the present backwards, and so has seen in them a polarity that did not exist at the time in my recollection. I have already commented to Carol on this. I bring it up again because it is crucial to be accurate about our beginning processes. (Perhaps we could have a showing of these tapes at a conference so that we can have an opportunity to revisit the flavor.) Coming from that characterization which appears misleading to me, Carol goes on to say "in terms of process, the first group 'misleadingly characterized' as "New York" or "East Coast" wanted to operate in a certain way while another 'misleadingly characterized' as "LA" or "West Coast" wanted to operate another way. I do appreciate Carol's efforts to put out some issues with clarity for the membership, but clarification of this material, in my mind, needs to continue in ongoing process for our members.

#2. The second mention of New York turns out to be the '99 conference where there was a "graceless battleground" and a "painful and alienating experience." Again, Carol's effort is to give a sense of the history of the issues involved in the rift.

#3. The 3rd mention comes from the fact that the 'misleadingly characterized "New York" or "East Coast" people were reported to have not attended the rift meeting in ways that were misleading of the actual process for them. Please note the contrast in the next paragraph to the generous and welcoming qualities of the people at their home base who did not have to travel across the country to be there, and the mention of those who "showed-up" in connection to "rancor dissolved": Does this imply rancor in those who did not show up after they were reported to have been graciously and generously invited?

#4. The fourth mention comes in the beginning of Bud's description under Saturday, February 16th:

"A. We began by speaking of our wants and concerns relative to this weekend, including

1. Concern that whatever we decided would not be accepted by some "NY" people who were not present."

#5. The 5th mention is Isabel's. She states that the source of the rift has to do with the histories of different institutes. However, here only the N.Y. Institute is named and described as "having a history of believing sincerely in anarchy in social behavior" with some evidence to back up this information. Also we note that these beliefs do not apply to everyone as Bud's presence at the meeting demonstrates.

Since there is no negatively-slanted mention of another city or institute this group of mentions begins to feel very damaging and could be misleading even to the most neutral readers of our newsletter. For cumulatively, we now see that NY people did not come, that they are less gracious and generous than LA people, that they will interfere with what generous and gracious people will decide, and this is further underscored by their sincere beliefs in 'social anarchy' which means they will undermine what work well-meaning others do.

I must mention Cynthia's part of the account. Perhaps she was wearing both hats as I experienced her report as corrective. She suggested that the handling of points of order arrived at during the rift meeting had already been arrived at by the design of the design committee to which I would add that they were also arrived at by the AAGT community prior to the first conference. And in speaking of the Manhattan Beach meeting she also questions whether or not a polarity as it is presently described by some existed at that time. In any case, I am grateful to Cynthia for bringing some balance back into the account.

Reading Carol's letter to Perry I see the enormous potential for our process. Are we ready to begin clarifying "our diverse languages?" Even if we are just approaching readiness this is a wonderful moment in process. Dear caring and careful friends, I find much that is damaging to both AAGT and NY here. I do not want the need for correction to evaporate. For there is here not the undermining of the LA rift meeting by some NY people but there is evidence for seeing in the Newsletter the undermining of the New York Institute and some of its members, something that no one deliberately wanted or have done.

Love, Zelda

FROM LYNNE JA COBS:

Dear Carol,

Thank you and Bud all others who put in the time and effort to write up the report of the rift meeting, and for including the letters afterward. I have some thoughts, feel free to send them around as you see fit.

I am particularly taken by two points raised, one in your report and one in Cynthia's letter:

1. "class/status": I think the fact of "some pigs being more equal than others" is unavoidable, and when it goes unacknowledged, the covert power process can sink whatever overt procedures exist. Perhaps our community can design an experiment of a sociogram. Something whereby the class/status issues can be looked at in a friendly setting. It is no one's "fault" that unequal influence exists, but it is no help to us to ignore it.

2. cultural difference. The idea that there may be a cultural difference about the interrelation of associating and advancing is intriguing to me, and best captures my from-a-distance sense of things. I find myself drawn, for the first time really, to a greater integration of the two strands. There are other conferences that can function along standard lines, but AAGT has an opportunity to experiment. IF the experiment fails, well, it may have provided much learning-by-experience along the way.

Again, thanks to all of you for engaging in such an interesting—if difficult—endeavor, and for including the other members via the AAGT newsletter.

Sincerely, Lynne Jacobs

Lynnejacobs@mail.gestalttherapy.org

IN THE SILENCE OF HER NEST

*In the cup of her hand
the doggy mid-wife holds the first one,
dark face, rust markings, small black lines along the toes.
Following each direction according to the manual
she swings the body up and down
pinches the nose
waits for the breath
waits for the squeal
that doesn't come.
Nearby, the mother dog pants
licks the puppy exit on her body,
she issues no more.*

*After the surgery,
after the unborn puppies are removed,
my dog comes home shaved and without wound.
Her stomach sags with sacks of milk
that still believe in miracles of birth,
she moves into her bed
digs a shallow nest for shadows
that she still believes will come,
then, just a few feet from my pillow,
she falls asleep.*

*Next morning, she adopts a green, spiked rubber ball
which she places between her front feet
growls when the other dog comes near,
carries it from room to room,
at night, it lies near her protruding stomach,
They say it will take weeks before she gives it up.*

*In the silence of her nest.
I sit beside her,
stroke her head, massage her ears,
feel the warmth of her body.
I tell her I will help protect
her green ball.
I tell her that her wound will heal.*

Jan Ruckert

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AAGT

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