



AAGT NEWS

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

WOW!!! St Petersburg, and the Trade Winds Sirata Hotel are a MAGNIFICENT on the beach venue for our Sixth International Conference.

As a contingent of the Conference Planning Committee, (That is, Chuck Kanner, Conference Coordinator, who generously and ably hosted and transported us all as well as working on every facet, Cynthia Cook and Sarah Toman, Program Chairs, Effie Bastas, peer review chair, and Ansel and Nancy Woldt, Bruce Aaron, Bruce Robertson, Carol Brockmon and Bud Feder) worked at a breakneck pace, all weekend, setting the schedule, going through peer reviewed proposals, building in community meetings, presentations, plenaries; poring over menus and prices, considering requests for some unscheduled time, working on publicity, logistics, finances-I could go on and on... We took a morning to explore the site. The Tradewinds Sirata Hotel is beautiful, right on a wonderful Gulf beach, with three heated pools, Jacuzzis, decks, patios, balconies, bars, restaurants, and many rooms with views of the Gulf or the bay. Walking around deciding things like where to serve breaks-on roofed outdoor balconies? In the foyer? How shall we set up the Saturday night celebration/dinner-dance/blowout? Maybe the deck for dancing, the patio for food, the beach between for sitting and hanging out? We became almost giddy. The hotel and function rooms are great. The amenities are fabulous. Plan to come earlier and stay longer. This is a true vacation destination. St. Petersburg boasts The Dali Museum, fine restaurants, water sports, boating and is not too far from Orlando. We will supply the following food: two lunches, one dinner, continental breakfast every day of the conference, snack breaks.

We have at least 50 peer reviewed, highly rated proposals in hand, with acceptance letters going out this week. We have planned exciting internationally led plenaries. We'll have 5 multi presentation spots which will include ECB (experiments in community building) sessions. We will, as always, provide process groups to ground and support the "whole conference" experience. We have high hopes of reaching out to current and former members, new members, students and explorers. Our theme: Holding the Heat, Conflict, contact, Creativity, could not be more desperately timely, and we need to gather to support and encourage one another in this terrifying time. Join us in our excitement and anticipation. Register now, to take advantage of the current discount. Check that your dues are paid so you can get the member discount. Register early at the hotel, so you can request a water view room or suite. Encourage your friends and colleagues to register. This conference will be a unique, not to be missed experience. See you in November.

Love,
Carol Brockmon, President.



AAGT Sixth International Conference *November 6-10, 2002, St. Petersburg, Florida*

ConferenceCenter info:
www.tradewindsresort.com/sirata



AAGT Sixth International Conference

**November 6-10,
2002,
St. Petersburg,
Florida**

ConferenceCenter info:
[www.tradewindsresort.com/
sirata](http://www.tradewindsresort.com/sirata)

FROM THE EDITOR

As this issue goes to press I am at home recuperating from spinal surgery. As a result of a childhood fracture, one of my vertebrae was displaced. Over the years scar tissue formed as my body's attempt to stabilize what was damaged and hadn't been repaired. As my body continued to try to function, business as usual, the scarring became progressively worse. Eventually the scarring itself was the source of so much pain that I sought this surgical solution. During the surgery the old scarring was removed, then a new structure, in the form of titanium rods and screws, was put in place to make further scarring and pain less likely.

While I was having the surgery, a group of AAGT members was meeting in California. In AAGT there have been some old fractures, scarred over but never healed, with attempts at movement causing more pain, more wounds, more scars. This group met with the hope that this body that is AAGT can be saved, can remove some of the old scarring, and can place in structures that can enable us to move ahead without so much pain.

This metaphor depends on an assumption, that AAGT is a body with much it can do, with such potential vitality, that it is greater than the sum of its parts, that it is a viable whole whose existence is worth the pain involved in deconstruction and reconstruction. The California meeting holds such potential significance that we have devoted a large part of this newsletter to reporting on the meeting.

As I reflect on the work done in California, on the courage of those who were willing to endure the hope and suffering of the process, my belief in AAGT grows exponentially. I've also had the good fortune of being a part of the peer review structure, examining proposals submitted for the Florida conference and seeing the vitality that they represent. A particular thrill comes from looking at the novice track submissions, from the awareness that there are new Gestalt therapists joining our ranks all the time and that we are making a place for them.

In this issue you will find messages from a number of people who are hard at work to produce the November, 2002 conference in Florida. The Process Groups chair is interested in volunteers for running process groups, and the Experiments in Community Building track is looking for volunteer facilitators. Both of these provide "inside" experiences that are very fulfilling, and the process groups can accommodate even those who are novices. The Scholarship Committee is soliciting funds and introduces its free gift for donors. The Work Study chair is soliciting applications for those who are willing to work to reduce their conference fees. There is a report from the hard-working Program Committee, giving a preview of the conference content. And we are including a conference registration form for those who have not yet registered.

In addition to conference business, we are introducing two new AAGT innovations. One is the addition of a new category of membership, the organizational membership, which provides new benefits to organizations and their members. And we are introducing the notion of a Service Exchange Program, through which AAGT members can trade our considerable expertise with one another. And finally our Treasurer, Bud Feder, is providing his report for the year 2001.

Please let us hear from you with your reactions to this issue.

Elizabeth S. Revell, Ph.D.
1120 Range Road
York, PA 17402.8308
ESRevell@suscom.net

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2001

January 1, 2001 thru December 31, 2001

Bud Feder, Treasurer
 198 Lorraine Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043
 Phone: 973.783.0740, Fax: 810.314.2490
 Email: bfeder@comcast.net

I. BALANCES

As of January 1, 2001: \$5,451
 As of December 31, 2001: \$9,665

II. INCOME DURING 2001 [total]: \$26,105

Conference registration: \$9,680
 Membership dues: \$14,372
 Interest from Bank: \$53
 Loan: \$2000

III. EXPENSES DURING 2001: \$19,538

Expense Type	Organization Management	Conference	Total
Administrative Assistant	\$375	\$1363	\$1738
Audiovisual Equipment		0	0
Bank Service Charges	110		110
CEU Fees		850	850
Conference Entertainment (band)		815	815
Corporate Fees	200		200
Executive Committee Meetings Expense	0		0
Graphic Design	1655	300	1955
Hotel (Conference Center)		6825	6825
Interest Groups/RCPs	126		126
Legal Fees			0
Mailing and Shipping	847	340	1187
Merchant Services (Credit Card Processing)	508		508
Office Supplies	454	613	1067
Photography	0		0
Printing and Copying	58	687	745
Refunds		230	230
Scholarships		0	0
Telephony	984	1100	2084
Website Maintenance	1098		1098
SUBTOTALS	\$6415	\$13,123	
EXPENSES: GRAND TOTAL			\$19,538

IV. SUMMARY

INCOME \$26,105
 EXPENSES \$19,538
 NET GAIN DURING YEAR \$6,567

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of MAR 2002 , by Bud Feder, Treasurer

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**



[Editor's Note: The following article describes an exciting new program that will soon be a part of AAGT. Suggested by Dori Middleman and further developed in committee with Joel Latner and Susan Gregory, this program has exciting potential for us to use our own considerable resources in our professional development and collaboration. As soon as we have identified a coordinator for the Service Exchange Program, we will be asking those of you who are interested in participating to identify the services you would like to offer.

WE INVITE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS PROGRAM.

AAGT SERVICE EXCHANGE

Submitted by Dori Middleman, M.D.

AAGT aims to further professional exchange and development among its membership and encourage membership in AAGT through the Service Exchange Program through which AAGT members have access to complimentary professional and training services from other members.

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 below. Members are invited to make a direct barter agreement with the requesting member. No member is required to agree to a request. In the event that a member has already completed their four hours of service, or even if the member just opts not to agree to that particular request, the member could offer their services on a routine fee-for-service basis.

Once we have identified a coordinator for the Service Exchange Program, we will ask interested AAGT members to identify the services they are willing to offer, from among the following:

1. phone consultation on a clinical issue or case
2. co-facilitation of another member's therapy group for a session
3. training on a particular topic of Gestalt therapy (specify)
4. guest group supervision to an existing supervision group
5. mentoring a Gestalt institute student
6. seeing a client/couple/family along with the requesting therapist to consult on a case
7. editing an article written by another member
8. other (specify)

Please note: AAGT members who participate in this Service Exchange should carry their own professional liability insurance for whatever service they are offering. AAGT as a membership organization does not offer clinical consultation or care and thus should not be considered liable for such activities which are conducted under each practitioner's name, and AAGT's professional liability insurance does not cover individual members for professional activities.

AAGT members who fulfill their recommended Service Time are requested to make a report on their activity and its outcome to the Service Exchange Chair. Such activities may be featured in publications (with permission) and serve to promote individual members' professional activities as well as the practice of Gestalt therapy in general.

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.

WORK-STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR AAGT CONFERENCE 2002

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.

WORK/STUDY

Work-Study
Opportunities
for AAGT Conference
2002

A Work-Study
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fax: 330-673-3101;
email:
NANSELW@aol.com;
or snailmail:
511 Beryl Drive, Kent,
Ohio 44240.



NEED HELP!!!

We need process group leaders, facilitators for Experiments in Community Building, and money for scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS NEEDED

Our scholarship drive for the 2002 conference in St. Petersburg, Florida is underway and we are asking for 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 to 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 Ave. Montclair, N.J. 07043.

Those who donate \$25 or more will receive a gift from the conference, a beautiful red and black insulated lunch bag with the conference logo. The lunch bag has separate insulated compartments so that both cold foods and hot foods can be stored.

It also has a third zipper compartment in the front and an adjustable carry strap. Please see photo.

If you have any ideas or questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your past and continued support!

Sharon Halpern, Scholarship Committee Chair
617.658.7086 sharonanh@yahoo.com



EXPERIMENTS IN COMMUNITY BUILDING

For further information, contact:

Process Groups:
Perry Klepner
212.632.7827,
Perry302@aol.com

Experiments in
Community Building:
Zelda Friedman,
ZelNorm@aol.com

Scholarships:
Sharon Halpern
617.658.7086,
sharonanh@yahoo.com

by Zelda Friedman

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 by a committee that included Charlie Bowman, Philip Brownell, Cynthia Cook, Iris Fodor, Susan Gregory, Lucanna Grey, Bruce Robertson, Sara Toman, and Ruth Wolfert. Their objective was to create and offer an alternative program track in addition to our didactic/experiential workshops. This track introduced 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, as before, we plan to have a series of 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.

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 Phillipson. 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.

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

by Cynthia Cook

I am pleased to report that the Program Committee has been hard at work crafting a conference that will do justice to our theme of "Holding the Heat: Conflict, Creativity, Contact." We will open on Wednesday evening with a plenary that will involve both speakers and breaking into small groups, with the intention of orienting ourselves and beginning to create the ground that will support our work together over the next four days. An international panel will speak to the breadth of application of Gestalt to conflicts ranging from the interpersonal and intergenerational, to those within large systems and organizations, and those of communities and citizens within political systems. In small groups we will begin to explore the personal background we bring to the topic and start to develop a sense of where our work lies. We will also meet in process groups, the ongoing support structure throughout the conference for assimilating our conference experience.

Over the rest of the four days we will weave in and out of small and large group experiences: process groups, peer reviewed workshops led by presenters from around the world, whole community processes, and Experiments in Community Building sessions, available to address the topics and needs that arise when our community meets and which will allow conference participants to come together around shared concerns. We will meet in regions and in interest groups, as beginners and as experienced practitioners, as psychotherapists and organizational consultants.

On Friday morning there will an experiential plenary formulated and facilitated by Sean Gaffney and an international committee, which will address the conference theme in the form of a simulation in which everyone present will be involved, in one way or another. The plenary leaders will establish a basic structure which mirrors aspects of some of the social conflicts in the world today. This basic structure is then the context for conference participants to experience and explore their situation. This experience will close by all present moving into their process groups. Sean's workshop on this theme was enthusiastically received at a past conference, and this promises to be one of the highlights of the conference.

Saturday night we will party on the beach, nourishing ourselves with nature and food and fun to balance and ground our experience together. I imagine that the beauty and power of the ocean will be our ally in our work, and we will do our best to build in free time in our busy schedule so that we may all get to enjoy the gift of our surroundings. All in all, the conference will be rich with possibilities for growth and connection. It is my dream that it sends us back into the world recharged and hopeful, with new tools and awareness for helping our wounded world. I hope you will join us.

Membership

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see article on page 5

Sirata Beach Resort

- Miles of white sandy beach
- 3 heated pools
- 2 whirlpools
- Fitness Center
- Beach Cabanas
- 2 barefoot beach bars
- Water trykes
- Beach Volleyball
- 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.



A FALLING MARKET

by Jan Ruckert

*My friend tells me she is falling in love
with a guy she met at Great Expectations
where she got this membership on sale
for thirteen hundred dollars
for life.*

*Out of six request cards
he is the only one who says yes.
They talk for hours on the phone
and then they meet
what they call an interview.
He's an actor in some theater production,
does bit parts in film,
cowboy stuff with Clint Eastwood.
She worries that if they have a family
can he support the kids,
is afraid she might have to work the rest of her life.
I remind her she's only known him a month
but she says he's the first one
who talks to her like a person
and the therapist he's been seeing for nine years
says he's ready for intimacy.*

*I think about the price of intimacy
the thirteen hundred dollars she paid
to choose the right guy
and I wonder how long it lasts
in a falling market.*

Jan Ruckert is a Gestalt therapist in Los Angeles and author of two books: *The Four-Footed Therapist* and *Are You My Dog*. She offers training in workshops on the use of art and writing as clinical tools in Gestalt therapy.

SAVE THE DATE.....

GESTALT ALIVE: 50YEARS

*creating,
developing,
evolving*

A Conference

- celebrating 50 Years of Gestalt therapy
- commemorating the publication of "Gestalt Therapy"
- marking the founding of the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy

June 12 - 15, 2003. In New York City

Conference themes will include:

- field notions of self
- group process
- working with body experiences
- evolving theory

The weekend will include:

- Experiential and theoretical presentations
- Panels
- Process groups
- A Dinner-Dance

The conference is in the planning stage, site and schedule to be announced.

For information:

New York Institute website:

www.newyorkgestalt.org

or

Institute Secretary,

Susan Gregory: sgregory@gestaltsing.com

AAGT
Sixth
International
Conference

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



FEEDBACK

"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 high hopes we can pass it on."

Carol Brockmon speaking of the "Rift Meeting" that took place in LA in February.



Bud Feder, Bob and Rita Resnick

REPORT OF THE RIFT TASK FORCE MEETING

Editor's Note: One significant event that has taken place since our last newsletter is that there has been a concerted effort by the AAGT Executive Council to try to heal a rift that opened in the organization, resulting in the alienation and near disappearance of many constituents.

This is Carol Brockmon speaking. I'm reporting back from a meeting in Los Angeles held February 16th and 17th, 2002 that the Executive Council (EC) refers to as the "Rift Task Force Meeting." This report has two parts: First, I fill you in on my version of the history of this meeting and my own responses. My comments are followed by Bud Feder's notes on the process of the meeting itself. In the spirit of honoring multiple realities, this missive was circulated to the participants in the meeting for their perspectives, additions, personal responses and corrections or disagreements. The resulting document is hereby published in the AAGT Newsletter, which is where you are reading it now. Hopefully, this will give you the flavor as well as the content of our work, and will help to develop a process for working with polarities and power struggles in AAGT.



Joseph Handlon, Cynthia Cook, Carol Brockmon

In preparation for this meeting, I watched the videotapes of the founding of AAGT at a Gestalt Journal Conference in Manhattan Beach, CA on April 11, 1991. It is of great interest to me that in both process and content, most or all of the polarities and issues emerging and erupting in AAGT now were also present then. Evidently from the very beginning there were at least two and maybe more content issues in the vision of how this organization would develop. One was focused primarily inward, looking to create a Gestalt community living by someone's version of Gestalt principles, operating by a consensus process (Associating). One was focused primarily outward, looking to spread the word about Gestalt to the wider mental health and organization and systems development professional communities, and to do this by producing dynamic and academically credible conferences with a lot of outreach (Advancing). In terms of process, the first group (misleadingly characterized as "New York" or "East Coast") wanted to operate in a process that gave individual members' concerns and issues (interpersonal,

organizational or visionary) sufficient time and energy necessary to reach a consensus that was agreeable to most members present and to do so with minimal organizational structure and hierarchy. In the interest of "advancing" Gestalt therapy, the other group (misleadingly characterized as "LA" or "West Coast") wanted to have an efficient structure to produce conferences with accountability, clear lines of authority and responsibility and to minimize working on personal or interpersonal issues in our AAGT organizational setting.

In that founding/organizational meeting the idea was put forth and endorsed that AAGT would be "the ground from whence various figures would emerge and to which they would recede." However, in practice it appears that in our worst moments AAGT becomes the ground from which power struggles between advocates of these figures emerges, reaches an impasse, and reemerges as unfinished business again and again, leading to hurt feelings, withdrawals, attacks, spasms of righteousness, and considerable confusion.

In 1999 at the New York Conference, the community meeting (the year's mandated membership business meeting) seemed to become a battleground of these forces in a particularly graceless manner. While the conference itself, as all of the previous conferences and the smaller subsequent conference in Dallas, 2000, were highly rated by those participants

who filled out the evaluation forms, the community meeting was a painful and alienating experience for many. Membership in the post-NYC period dipped precipitously. In my opinion, most of the membership wants the organization to support both kinds of figures. However, the unpleasant nature of the wrangling nearly depleted our resources of volunteer laborers. At the end of that conference a task force volunteered to address the process by which conferences and other organizational activities would be designed. This committee called itself the Design of the Design Committee. While there was a range of perspective in that group, the "hardest liners" of the "West Coast" end did not volunteer or participate. This committee produced a report that is readily available to all members. The tone in that group was serious and chastened by the potential damage to the organization by continued, unproductive struggle and the committee report led to the way in which the Dallas conference was organized.

At the Dallas Conference, the Southwest Regional Group (SWAAGT) presented a proposal that was an offer for them as a Conference Planning Committee to produce the next conference. This came in response to requests that they offer such a plan from many of us, myself included, who were distressed at the thought we would lose them and their energy, generosity, talent and skill. The plan had some conditions built in that our board, meeting in Dallas determined were not acceptable under the terms of AAGT's Constitution and By-Laws, and this created what has become known as "The Rift." The membership present in Dallas wanted to have this rift resolved and charged the EC with continuing dialogue with SWAAGT. It was determined that there would not be time to resolve the rift issues and produce the 2002 Conference. After the Dallas conference membership again began to rise. While our dialogue continued, other plans were made for the 2002 Conference to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida. Eventually, Joseph Handlon, from SWAAGT, suggested a plan: that a committee of the EC and representatives of both perspectives meet with a neutral consultant to see if there was some better resolution we could reach. The EC unanimously supported that plan and the meeting was scheduled for LA as soon as possible.



Celia Young

The EC selected Bud Feder, (Treasurer & President Elect), Carol Brockmon, (President) and Ansel Woldt, (Archivist and Continuing Education Officer). Isabel Fredericson, (Membership Co-Chair) and Cynthia Cook, (Interest Group Chair) came in the role both of EC members and representatives of the separate points of view. 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 EC's offer of help with travel expenses. Celia Young was the consultant, a well-known Gestalt practitioner who is also on the OSD faculty at GIC. She was personally

recommended to us by Edwin Nevis and worked with us for a fraction of her usual fee. She held hour-long phone interviews with three people from each "side" of the rift, including Zelda, who did not attend the meeting.

For the meeting, Bob and Rita Resnick generously made office space and refreshments available to us. Celia designed a process by which we could hopefully acknowledge common ground, air our views, accept multiple realities and move forward.

There was a distinct quality of welcome, goodwill, kindness and respect in our interactions throughout the weekend. The sense of ownership of AAGT, of love, generosity and desire to work together to resolve difficulties was palpable. We tried with varying success to not demonize the "other," and to remain open. We looked at issues seriously like how class differences, real or perceived, might have influenced our impasses. 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 high hopes we can pass it on.



Isabel Fredericson

FEEDBACK

"We were then asked to say what keeps us coming back to AAGT. We responded with our individual stories that featured personal satisfactions such as connections, developing and maintaining friendships, a sense of accomplishment, meaningful excitement and personal growth, as well as professional learning and enrichment."

Bud Feder, from his notes of the "Rift Meeting" that took place in LA in February.

FEEDBACK

"It was good to see so many of you after so long. I hope we can maintain these warm connections, even with our differences!"

Cynthia Cook, commenting on the "Rift Meeting" that took place in LA in February.

Bud's notes on that process follow:

AAGT "RIFT TASK-FORCE MEETING" IN LOS ANGELES, FEBRUARY 16-17, 2002

PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE MEETING: Carol Brockmon, Cynthia Cook, Bud Feder, Ansel Woldt, Bob Resnick, Rita Resnick and Celia Young [Facilitator]. PRESENT, THOUGH NOT AT ALL SESSIONS: Irv Gadol, Janice Roosevelt Gerard, Isabel Fredericson, Joseph Handlon, Liv Estrup, Susan Baker, Jan Ruckert.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, AFTERNOON SESSION:

- A. We began by speaking our wants, needs 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.
 2. Concern that previous decisions in the organization unravel because there are not trustworthy decision-making processes that hold.
 3. A goal of enhancing our leadership "forces" and learning better to communicate with the general membership.
 4. A need to develop a post-taskforce strategy.
 5. A need to distinguish between interpersonal conflicts and intraorganizational conflicts.
- B. We then sub-grouped and reviewed AAGT's achievements and contributions since its inception. Among those mentioned were:
1. We created a democratic community.
 2. We broadened our constituency and connections.
 3. We built community in various ways.
 4. We contributed to members' learning, development, and personal growth.
 5. We organized and put on five meaningful international conferences, which were democratic, varied and attractive to a variety of people who benefited personally and professionally, and who evaluated the conferences enthusiastically.
 6. We developed outreach activities both in US and internationally.
 7. We created a Design-of-the-Design protocol as part of the struggle to develop better leadership and decision-making processes.
- C. We then looked at what enabled these achievements and reported the following:
1. A pioneering mentality.
 2. A unique, "bottom-up," Gestalt orientation for organizing a professional society.
 3. Openness to participation and a spirit of inclusiveness by all interested in Gestalt.
 4. A lot of personal energy and effort by a generous core of members who contributed generously of time, talent, energy, ideas and finances.
 5. Great opportunities for personal and professional contact created by being at the conferences themselves.
 6. Interest groups, at least initially, were the original heart and soul of AAGT.
 7. Process groups have played an integral role in our conference successes.
 8. Ownership of responsibility has been important contributor.
 9. A community spirit initially fueled by not meeting in conjunction with the Gestalt Journal conferences.
- D. We were then asked to say what keeps us coming back to AAGT. We responded with our individual stories that featured personal satisfactions such as connections, developing and maintaining friendships, a sense of accomplishment, meaningful excitement and personal growth, as well as professional learning and enrichment.
- E. Next we were asked to indicate our goals for this Task Force and stated the following (with varied emphases):
1. To improve our ability to advance Gestalt Therapy.
 2. To improve our ability to promote associating within the AAGT community.
 3. To improve our ability to enhance Gestalt's impact on the professional world.
 4. To improve our ability to function within and be guided by the basic principles of Gestalt Therapy.
 5. To learn better to disagree respectfully and manage our differences (much) better.
 6. To develop a policy of "binding" and/or "limiting" controversy in our community meetings and conference planning processes to enhance the level of productivity, with the burden of enforcing this on the leadership.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, EVENING SESSION:

A. We explored ideas regarding better (or, as Bud reminded us, Laura Perls would say, "more 'aesthetic'") ways of reaching resolution of conflicts and closure on controversies, while realizing or necessitating the following:

1. Letting go of fixed positions.
2. Gaining firmer leadership.
3. Developing clearer limits and boundaries.
4. Accepting that some will leave (an event, or even the organization) unhappy.
5. Creating a vehicle for disgruntled people to express and seek redress of their grievances.
6. Sharpening the design of community meetings.
7. Considering the value of the Design-of-the-Design protocol as a work in progress.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, MORNING SESSION:

A. After a round of reviewing our feelings about and what we got from Saturday's sessions, we developed our goals for the day, which included:

1. Clarifying our differences.
2. Providing support for sharing our feelings/emotional processes.
3. Finding ways to deal with our differences.
4. Creating structures for the organization's activities (community meetings, committee meetings, etc.) to diminish conflict.
5. Developing decision-making procedures.
6. Insuring follow-through on decisions (implementing them).
7. Defining and assigning responsibility, authority and leadership.
8. Developing better process norms for "associating" and for "the association."
9. Keeping an eye on the "Big Picture."
10. Clarifying what legacy we wish AAGT to have.
11. Moving beyond talk into action (next steps).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, AFTERNOON SESSION:

A. We pondered together some more and discussed in more detail how to better deal with difficulties that arise from differences, and put forth the following suggestions:

1. Each person pays attention to her/his own contribution to the conflict.
2. Find a way to bind or limit "endless" arguing.
3. Develop clear lines of authority, responsibility and leadership.
4. Create a mediation system.
5. Work individually to develop a more curious, interested and openhearted approach to the differing other.
6. Develop an "organizational norm" on those same principles of curious, interested and openhearted interaction.
7. Develop individual and organizational norms of focusing on problems and issues, not on persons.
8. Act in "good faith" with the good of the organization as a clear part of foreground.
9. Help conflicted/conflicting members to "let go" or "bracket" in order to accept and support the will of the group.

B. We worked hard together to come up with the following statement of recommendations to the EC for AAGT with the expectation it will be publicized in the Newsletter and in other ways, and possibly be incorporated into the Constitution and By-Laws at a later date:

IN THE EVENT OF AN IMPASSE: AFTER SUFFICIENT DISCUSSION (sufficient as judged by the individual in charge of the event, i.e., chair of the committee meeting, facilitator of the community meeting, convener of the conference call, etc.),

THE FOLLOWING STEPS ARE TO BE TAKEN:

1. The group in question shall vote on the issue and the majority shall rule.
2. In the event of a tie, the person in charge of the event shall vote to break the tie.
3. The minority shall be welcome to file a minority view.
4. In the event individuals refuse to accept the majority outcome (i.e. refuse to discontinue discussion of the issue), the chair is authorized to inform said individual(s) that the

FEEDBACK

"So here we are talking to one another, still struggling, but with the rancor and unfinished business much diminished, not taking center stage, and continuing a healing process."

Carol Brockmon speaking of the "Rift Meeting" that took place in LA in February.

NEW MEMBERS

ORGANIZATIONS:

Institute for
Integrative
Psychotherapy,
New York, NY, USA

Gestalt Associates for
Psychotherapy,
New York, NY, USA

Gestalt International
Study Center (GISC),
Cape Cod, MA, USA

INDIVIDUALS:

Louise Hoff Matney,
Northfield, MA, USA

Shane Shackford,
Princeton, NJ, USA

discussion on this issue is closed and the individual(s) must honor that by ceasing to raise questions or make statements.

5. Should the person(s) refuse, s/he/they may be asked to leave the meeting or event.
6. We also discussed aspects of the community meetings, in particular, and the need to establish the above ground rules in our meetings; this includes making it clear that personal conflicts do not belong there and will not be tolerated in that venue.

C. There was further discussion of the nature of our conferences. This was a theme that had surfaced numerous times during the weekend, with three types of conferences being delineated:

1. Conferences devoted to "associating;"
2. Conferences devoted to "advancing," also named by some as "professional;" and
3. Conferences incorporating both "advancing" and "associating" as indicated in AAGT's name and Constitution, also named by some as the "middle ground."

D. Although there was no ultimate resolution of this issue, it appeared that all present would support (in word, spirit and perhaps action) the will of the community as it emerged over the years. We parted amicably and with hugs, with "southwesterners" thanking the "easterners" for making the arduous trip and the "easterners" thanking the "southwesterners" for their hospitality and willingness to participate and risk in our meetings.

Following this report, checked and edited by Ansel, came the following dialogue, clarifying and amending:

Dear Carol:

In reference to your letter about the meeting and the preceding history, I have two comments about what is otherwise an excellent discussion. For one, I do not think that anything the Southwest proposed in its letter was contrary to the constitution, but was subject to various interpretations. I think that a major difference involved the interpretation of "inclusiveness." The second difference is around your use of the word "class." I think it needs spelling out more as you don't say what you mean by it. Congratulations on an interesting and informative article.
Isabel

Dear Isabel:

Thanks for your prompt reply. I appreciate both of your initial points: that I did not adequately spell out what I meant by "class," and that there is more than one view of how to interpret "inclusiveness." I will add your comment to the letter. By "class," I wanted to address whether there is a real or perceived difference in power or privilege in AAGT based on income, academic standing, or degree of being known in the community. My reasoning is that any unacknowledged issue of this kind in a volunteer organization can wreak havoc by engendering contempt on either or both ends of the continuum, by engendering a false sense of entitlement on both ends, and by stunting the opportunity for real dialogue. (Topdog and underdog all the way to the impasse.) As a matter of fact, I wonder whether the "rift" itself is less about which coast you live on or where you were trained than where you are in relation to the above factors. I don't have the answers, just some of the questions. Carol

Dear Carol:

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 relation to power in any perceived form. Elaine Kepner once dug out some articles that were circulating in the NY Institute in its early years that spelled this out - but that was in the 50's when anarchy was not what it is today. A group of New Yorkers, as well as others, had a workshop on anarchy at one of the conferences not so long ago in which they reiterated this belief. Of course, that is not everyone in that institute, as Bud demonstrated. I don't know how current that belief is now. Isabel.

Dear Isabel:

That is a terrific point: What are the philosophical differences and assumptions we are trying to contain in this organization? Can they be articulated clearly enough so that we can truly look for a creative way to create room for the various interpretations and understandings of Gestalt? What are the threads? Is there a geography? Carol

Carol: (From Cynthia)

First of all, thanks to you and Bud for your efforts to capture both the rift and the weekend in a way that will allow the rest of the organization to feel included and involved. It is not an easy task! I hope that my comments will be taken in the spirit of working to clarify where we agree and where we don't, in the interests of at least understanding where/what our differences are. I have a few immediate responses to what you wrote. First, under the section towards the end where you discuss the procedure for resolving disputes on committees (Sunday, #2), I recall the discussion a little differently, and would like to add the modification that after a deadline has been set by which a decision needs to be reached, and if by the deadline the committee has not reached a consensus, then the other procedures (of taking a vote, etc.) kick in. I do not recall any discussion about giving the chair of a committee the power to arbitrarily decide what has been "enough" discussion, rather we talked about the necessity of everyone knowing up front what the boundaries are. So that is another point that needs to be added somewhere-the importance of groups orienting, up front, as to how they will operate, what the time parameters are, and what authority the group does or does not have, so that there is no confusion later on down the line. I recall Celia writing that on the sheet at one point.

My second point concerns how to frame the rift itself. Carol, it may be that the impression that comes across from the early videotapes is of groups with two different visions that break down along "associating" and "advancing." However, I have never personally related to that split, and I strongly object to continuing to describe our differences in those terms. To me, and I know for many others, our "associating" helps us to advance Gestalt therapy, and is where the excitement is created that engages people new to the field. This is more where the split is-and this was affirmed for me during our weekend meeting-around what we each believe best serves the cause of "advancing." For some of us, how we associate is not separable from how we advance Gestalt therapy in the world; for others (as best I understand it), in order to advance Gestalt therapy we need to stay within a certain model of "professional" conference, that is recognizable across the boundaries of modalities, and that we should reserve any more "experimental" forms of gathering to in-house. So it is not that one group wants to turn in and one wants to turn out, but that one group sees our inwardly and outwardly focused activities as needing to be very different, and the other sees them as needing to be continuous. One group sees the organization as an experiment in functioning according to Gestalt principles of inclusion and consensus, including in the process of creating conferences, and the other sees it more as a structure for groups with energy and interest to pursue their separate desires. I felt this difference most clearly articulated during the weekend when Bob and I were talking about whether we were all in "it" together, and he responded that for him there were separate "its."

I think it is important to be as clear as we can about these definitions. There has been no discussion since the NY Conference about dropping workshops, or peer review, etc.; rather the issue is about how much to push the envelope in creating opportunities within the conference for spontaneity and creativity. The other moment this difference felt very clear to me was when Liv was talking about the planning for the San Francisco plenary. As someone who was not there, it has been interesting to me to try and understand where the communication broke down in the process. I have developed the impression that what one group perceived as a plan to work with whatever arose in the group was perceived by others as not having a plan. That was a very clear illustration to me of what I can only describe as a cultural split, almost like two separate languages where the words don't mean the same thing to both sides.

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, Carol Hodges and Perry Klepner have been considered hard-liners, and they all participated in that committee. I am attaching that report, for those who may not have seen it yet, to show the tone and attitude of the group, and that the work of that committee is very much in synch with the procedures we discussed during our meeting. [begin italics [See AAGT Newsletter, Spring, 2000 - Editor.] end italics] For example, in discussion committee process, the report reads:

6. Time periods can be divided into brainstorming, summarizing, critique and integration, decision making and implementation. Within the time structure, a good faith effort is made to arrive at consensus. If time runs out, a vote is taken and is binding. A minority opinion is written and included, along with the decision itself, the tasks resulting, and the commitments and timelines of the members taking on responsibility.

NEWSLETTER

Ads in the
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AAGT

WEB



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**REGISTER
FOR THE 2002
CONFERENCE
ONLINE**



Since I know there was concern that what we discussed in our meeting would not be supported by the rest of the organization, I offer this as assurance that, in this regard at least, we are all pretty much in agreement. It was good to see so many of you after so long. I hope we can maintain these warm connections, even with our differences!

Take care, Cynthia

Dear Carol,

Sorry I couldn't respond earlier - Rita and I are in Ireland. I just want to also say that the leader of the community meeting, committee, or whatever, was the one to decide how much discussion time was reasonable (after discussion seemed to be stymied) and that person had both the responsibility and the authority to call an end of the discussion. Without this, nothing would be changed at the practical level - discussion could again go on infinitely and bring the organization to its knees - lots of discussion and functional inertia. This is clearly my memory and I believe Bud's notes from our taskforce meeting in LA. Bob Resnick

So here we are-talking to one another, still struggling, but with the rancor and unfinished business much diminished, not taking center stage, and continuing a healing process. All of us are aware of multiple realities of vision, intent and perspective in AAGT. Hopefully dialogue can flourish better now in many arenas, now that this one feels so much less toxic.

Carol

CALL FOR PROCESS GROUP LEADERS

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.

There will be an orientation and training session for Process Group Leaders at the Conference itself on Wednesday afternoon, November 6th. We also plan to hold meetings of the Process Group Leaders for support/discussion several times during the Conference.

Fill out the application form on page 18 and return it as soon as possible.

For further information contact:

PERRY KLEPNER: 302 West 79th Street, New York, NY 10024

Telephone: 212 362 7827 E-Mail: Perry302@aol.com

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 on-going 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, and 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.



GANZ 3rd International Conference

12th – 15th September 2002
Rydges Hotel, Christchurch, New Zealand

theme:	<p>Flowing from dreaming the future at the Australian Conference (2000), our conference Matters of the Heart, intends to braid together the diverse streams that make up the broad river that is Gestalt Therapy and Practice.</p> <p>This living river is our wairua (spiritual essence) nourishing our whenua (land) and sense of whanaungatanga (relatedness). Our heart centred responses to this are the focus of our conference Maanawatia - Matters of the Heart.</p> <p><i>"All things in nature cohere, it is wairua that is the cohesive element"</i> - W.T.Maniapoto</p> <p>You are encouraged to participate in this event with open curiosity and heart-centred awareness as you explore Gestalt's current and future possibilities within and for our diverse communities.</p> <p>The conference is an opportunity to renew connections and to make new ones. We have our own unique style and the conference continues the building of this exciting new Gestalt community in Australia and New Zealand.</p>
programme	<p>Experiential workshops and papers offer differing matters of the heart, with over 30 presenters from various cultural backgrounds and countries such as: Australia, Canada, Israel, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA and New Zealand.</p> <p>The broad themes of the presentations cluster as follows: Drama, the body, theory, education, music & sound, organisations, spirituality & cross-cultural.</p> <p>A range of pre-conference workshops (1-3 days duration) is also offered.</p> <p>The programme is now available to view upon the conference website. www.eenz.com/events.htm</p>
registration options	<p>A Full Registration covers 4 days of the Conference, with an Early and Late distinction. Closing date for Early Registration is 1 June 2002.</p> <p>The Saturday programme has been shaped to offer presentations of interest to the wider Gestalt community, and a Day Registration is available for this day.</p>
contact details	<p>All conference information and Online Registration is available from the conference website. If you prefer to receive a hard-copy registration form, contact: GANZ Conference Organiser eddy@eenz.com PO Box 647, Rangiora 8254, New Zealand Tel +64 3 313 2097 Fax +64 3 313 2098</p>

GANZ
Gestalt Australia & New Zealand Inc.

AAGT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

APPLICATION FOR PROCESS GROUP LEADER

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ADDRESS

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Work:

Fax:

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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:
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302 West 79th Street, 1C
N.Y. N.Y. 10024
perry302@aol

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

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):

- Early Registration (postmarked before February 28th, 2002) - \$340
Early registration discount is available to presenters only until June 1.
- Normal Registration (postmarked between March 1st & June 30, 2002) - \$370
- Late Registration (postmarked between July 1st & September 30th) - \$400
- "At the Door" Registration (postmarked after September 30th or accomplished on site) - \$450

Non-Member:

- Early Registration (postmarked before February 28th, 2002) - \$390
Early registration discount is available to presenters only until June 1.
- Normal Registration (postmarked between March 1st & June 30, 2002) - \$420
- Late 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 (early, normal, and late registration) - \$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 Lorraine 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..

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

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The Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy
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Sixth International Conference
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You must register yourself at the Tradewinds Resort Sirata separately. Call 1-800-237-0707, ask for their group reservations desk. Press 2 when prompted. Identify yourself as with the AAGT "Holding the Heat conference. (more information on page 19)



Association for the Advancement
of Gestalt Therapy

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GESTALT THERAPY

AAGT

Carol Brockmon

7861 Spring Ave Elkins Park

PA 19027

USA