

AAGT

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy
An International Community

**News for AAGT
Members!**

April 2010

In this issue...

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| April Greetings | 2 |
| Remembering Irma Lee | 4 |
| Remembering Marilyn | 6 |
| Annual Meeting 2010 | 7 |
| Conference Information | 12 |
| Paul Goodman Film | 25 |
| Regional News | 27 |
| Interest Groups | 29 |
| Advancing | 30 |
| Membership Application | 32 |



**AAGT 2010
PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE &
PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
JUNE 1 - 6**

Register Now!
Beat the May 15th increase in conference registration
Go to aagt.org.

Lower your costs another \$100 by taking on a work study position for four hours; e-mail jowent90@msn.com

Remember: the special conference hotel rate (\$142 not including taxes) ends on April 27

FULL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE STARTS ON PAGE 14



**June 5, 2010 in
Philadelphia**



This is my last column as president. These, then, are my valedictory thoughts as I look to the ending of my term this June during our Biennial Conference in Philadelphia.

It is ironic that my duties as president wind down at a time of AAGT's greatest activity. This newsletter bursts with proof of it. The momentum of our organization's life is in the pages that follow, in the details of our up-coming conference only 2 months away—and in the descriptions of all the activities of our membership throughout AAGT in all our worldwide regions. So as AAGT peaks in its activity, my role as president becomes more ceremonial than functional. What is there left for me to do? Hardly more than another board meeting to chair. Hardly more than my welcoming you at our conference in Philadelphia. Or my facilitating a Community Meeting. And my handing the gavel of office over to Cathy Gray, our new president.

Maybe this is the time for me to call forth some of my personal impressions of AAGT from this instantiated moment of my presidency.

When I seize this moment and look into it I am in Philadelphia this coming June, looking out at all of you assembled at our conference, feeling my own excitement and catching the energy of your excitement and hearing the buzzing noises coming from us all together: I welcome you to the conference.

When I grab this moment I am in Manchester, 2008, taking the presidential gavel from Peter Philippon and then facilitating the Annual General Membership Meeting and then the Community Meeting, during which I felt a jolt of community, as if I touched the arc of energy that runs through our fellowship.

When I grab this moment —by virtue of imagination or memory —I am at each of our regional conferences —I am in Ashville, North Carolina for the Southeast Regional Conferences, in California for the Southwest Regional Conferences, in Australia for the Regional Conference and in New York City for the Northeast Regional Conference and in all the other regions for the less formal gatherings of our members.

When I grab this moment I am in heated email discussions on our Members List, exchanging ideas about our policies or our future.

And in this moment, I am chairing the monthly board teleconference calls where the business of AAGT

is discussed and dealt with. Let me tell you something about our board and how fortunate I've been. We've been. Our board has been a remarkable team of people who've been committed to the organization, to be sure, but have been equally committed to honesty in their working together. Their presence toward one another with mutual respect and sense of humor kept our monthly work moving nearly effortlessly. Our board was an international cross-section of AAGT; I was honored to be its chair.

And now, in this moment, finally, I am writing my last column, thanking you for choosing me to be part of AAGT as president.

Is this the place for me to say how I'd like to be remembered as president? I want to be known as a president who changed during his tenure, who listened when spoken to, and took heed when needed, and changed as a result of his experience. I would like to be known as one of the people who highlighted the importance of our regions as where our association lives and where regional conferences may emerge to develop gestalt therapy while we, the larger organization, also plan our biennial conferences. Our regions are AAGT as an international community in deed as well as name. Gestalt therapy is alive on a daily basis in these regions. Our regions are where AAGT is expanding. I've been gratified beyond measure to see more and more of our regions come alive over the 2 years of my presidency.

And I would like these last 2 years to be known as a time when AAGT functioned more or less with comity and in good faith toward common goals, while being respectful of our differences.

I will have the ablest successor in Cathy Gray. She has been an important presence on our board as vice-president. Uniquely among in-coming presidents, Cathy brings to us demonstrated leadership talent evidenced by her being a co-convenor with Burt Lazarin of our Philadelphia Conference.

Richard Kitzler counseled other presidents of AAGT "to lead from behind" and that "presidents preside." I hope I honored his counsel.

~Dan

Our Executive Council & Additional Board Officers

| | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| President: | Dan Bloom | dan@djbloom.com |
| Vice-President | Cathy Gray | cathybgray@gmail.com |
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| RCP Coordinator | Brian O'Neill | boneill@uow.edu.au |
| Organizational Representatives | Bud Feder | bfeder@comcast.net , |
| | Morgan Goodlander | gestaltinstitute@yahoo.com |
| Interest Group Coordinator | Michael D.-Chastain | mhdchastain@yahoo.com |

Welcome to Philadelphia! By Cathy Gray

Spring is full upon us in Philadelphia. Everywhere one looks a burst of color strikes the eye and sweet fragrance awaken the senses, yellow forsythia, pink cherry blossoms, white dogwood, hyacinths and tulips of many colors. The brilliant green of new leaves unfold into the cool air, while birds herald their arrival.

Philadelphia is donning its prettiest finery as another season unfolds. It is as if all of nature is getting ready for your arrival to our city.

In 8 short weeks we will come together again. Among us will be a number of the individuals who were the founding members of AAGT. Their ongoing participation enriches our gatherings, bringing experience, history, and continuity, grounding our evolution and informing our path as we move forward as an organization. At the same time the excitement of new voices, new ideas, new faces enlivens our gathering and grows us as individuals and as an organization.

Charlie Bowman recently put together a listing of conference themes since the first conference in New Orleans in 1995. In them is reflected the change and growth within our organization, our struggles, and our aspirations:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|---|
| 1995 | New Orleans | Bringing us Together |
| 1997 | San Francisco | Different Meanings, Common Ground |
| 1998 | Cleveland | Gestalt in the World and the World of Gestalt |
| 1999 | New York | Expanding our Vision: Bridging our Diversity |
| 2000 | Dallas | Social Vision and Personal Growth |
| 2002 | St. Pete Beach | Holding the Heat: Conflict, Creativity, Contact |
| 2004 | St. Pete Beach | Re-Creation: Transforming the Field |
| 2006 | Vancouver | Dreaming the Future: Expanding our Consciousness |
| 2008 | Manchester | Borders and Bridges: Differentiation in Contact |
| 2010 | Philadelphia | Continuity and Change: Gestalt Therapy Now |

Come join us in Philadelphia! Be part of this grand experiment that is AAGT and be changed by your experience of Gestalt Therapy Theory as it is practiced all over the world with individuals and in organizations. We are awaiting your arrival and participation with eager anticipation.

AAGT Conference 2010 – Welcome to Philadelphia

Prepare yourself for a memorable week in “Philly”. The Society Hill Sheraton is located in an area called Old City. Hungry? There are over 100 restaurants within five minutes walk of the conference location and there are cafés and clubs for nightlife, music and dancing. Penn’s Landing, a few blocks away, hosts outdoor concerts and festivals in the summer.

There are three movie theaters close by and over 40 art galleries. On the First Friday of each month, including when we are at the conference, the galleries and shops in the area stay open late with special exhibits and sales.

Interwoven in this vibrant scene are historic sites such as Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Constitution Center, the Betsy Ross House, and Independence National Historic Park and Visitors’ Center where you can see the original Liberty Bell and have your picture taken with Ben Franklin! If you like city tours, there is a variety to guide you to the neighborhoods, historic sites and museums throughout the city either by horse drawn carriage or motorized trolley car.

There will be more information available at the conference. If you can’t wait, check out Phillyfunguide.com or Visit Philadelphia.com. See you in June!

Remembering Irma Lee Shepherd

Irma Lee Shepherd: An Encomium

By Edward W. L. Smith, Ph.D., ABPP

As a graduate student about to emerge into the professional world, Georgia State University was one of the places where I interviewed. There I met Irma Lee Shepherd, Joen Fagan, Earl Brown, Ray Craddock, and Luciano Labate, the core full-professors in the newly installed clinical doctoral program. In the idiom of that time, we had "good vibes" and I was hired. My arrival in 1969 coincided with the publication of Joen and Irma's edited book, *Gestalt Therapy Now*. Although I had had a marvelous introduction to existential phenomenology during my clinical traineeship at the Lexington, Kentucky Veterans Administration Hospital, I knew nothing of Gestalt therapy. My motive for purchasing a copy of their book was "overdetermined." In addition to my considerable intellectual curiosity, I must confess that I thought it politic to read their book, for they would at some point be voting on my tenure and promotion. Studying *Gestalt Therapy Now* led me to an exciting, fulfilling, and unexpected career direction. Theirs was the first book that actually told me how to do existential therapy!

Irma and Joen brought Gestalt therapy directly from Fritz Perls, in his Esalen days, to Georgia State University and to Atlanta. (At one time they even tried to get a faculty appointment for Fritz.) They carefully selected several of us, mostly younger colleagues, and invited us to be part of their first yearlong Gestalt training group. The Sunday evening sessions left me so excited that I came to expect sleepy Monday mornings from lack of sleep the night before. Following the year of training, Irma and Joen invited some of us to join them both in part-time private practice and in the formation of the training institute that came to be Pine River Center. I accepted eagerly. In addition to seeing clients privately and participating in offering ongoing training groups, this launched me into offering workshops throughout the country and internationally for the next decades.

Eager to share her beloved American Academy of Psychotherapists with her colleagues at the Pine River Center, Irma endorsed several of our membership applications. All of us became active in the Academy, with Irma, Earl Brown, and Ann McKain each serving terms as president.

Irma played a major role in designing the doctoral program in clinical psychology at Georgia State University. She infused it with the values of humanistic psychology and implemented it with a wealth of experientially based courses. Recognizing the need for approval from the American Psychological Association in order that students would qualify for increasingly competitive internships and for licensure, while retaining many elective options in coursework, we did compromise with certain APA requirements. Students in clinical psychology could elect a general clinical track, a child and family track, or a psychotherapy track. The latter involved a great deal of one-on-one supervised practicum in addition to extensive coursework. This track was carefully overseen by Irma and Joen. A departmental clinic was established, for which I was the Associate Director for several years. Additional practicum opportunities were developed through the cooperation of several hospitals and clinics from the rich array in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Irma and Joen arranged for some of the supervision to be offered by selected practitioners in the Atlanta community, notable therapists such as Henry Harsh, Liz Valerius, and several from the Atlantic Psychiatric clinic, including Dick Felder, Ross Cox, Tom Leland, and John Warkentin. As we graduated some fine therapists who remained in the Atlanta area, several of them were invited into this coterie of supervisors. From the perspective of humanistic, existential, Gestalt therapy, we developed what we believed to be arguably the premier doctoral psychotherapy program in the world.

Irma invented a very special two-course sequence, for which she advocated and finally gained a devoted classroom. In the tradition of Elsa Gindler (a formative influence on Laura Perls), Charles Brooks, and Charlotte Selver, this sequence was an experience in *awareness training*. The first course was the experience of awareness training per se; the second consisted of the supervised leading of an awareness group consisting of undergraduates. I audited the first course, then inherited this sequence from Irma, and until I left the university, most clinical students made it part of their curriculum. The various intrapersonal and interpersonal exercises that were introduced, many of them non-verbal, allowed a depth of exploration that helped ground students in their personhood and prepare them more fully for conducting an experiential style of psychotherapy.

Irma was an innovator. She was a leader in the education of a countless number of psychotherapists, both as a professor in the Georgia State University graduate program and as a trainer with Pine River Center. Through the center, on at least two occasions, Irma sponsored Jim Simkin to offer weekend workshops in Atlanta. There is a generation of psychotherapists, concentrated in the Atlanta community but spread far more widely, who count Irma among their major mentors. Because of confidentiality, we can only guess as to how many psychotherapy clients, many of them therapists themselves, who credit Irma with facilitation of their personal growth.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution on March 7, 2010

Irma Shepherd

Irma Lee Shepherd, Ph.D., age 83, died on February 27, 2010 of pneumonia, a consequence of Lewy Body Dementia which had run its difficult course over 10 years. Dr. Shepherd was instrumental in starting and developing the graduate program in Clinical Psychology at Georgia State University. She was also a well-known, highly-regarded psychotherapist specializing in Gestalt therapy. She led training workshops around the country and in Europe and served a term as President of the American Academy of Psychotherapists. Dr. Shepherd was born on February 8th, 1927, in Tampa, Florida, the child of Lura Harkey Shepherd and William H. Shepherd. She spent her early years in Sanford, Florida near the large families of both parents. Seeing the need to remove her from the pressures of expectation, her father moved the family to Cocoa Beach where there were only 6 houses at that time. (Her father later worked as an engineer involved in the building of the Kennedy Space Center.) Irma's early companion was the sea, a love she kept all her life. The family then moved to Cocoa where she finished high school, an excellent student and an avid reader. Irma attended the Florida State College for Women, now Florida State University. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Mortar Board, but her proudest achievement was being elected president of Judiciary, one of the top three senior offices, which involved counseling students in disciplinary trouble. There being no clear route at that time to becoming a psychotherapist, she followed the lead of the Presbyterian student worker and went to the Presbyterian Training School (now Union Theological Seminary) for a Master's in Christian Education, writing a thesis on Agape and Counseling. After serving as Assistant Dean of Women at Agnes Scott, she went to graduate school at the Pennsylvania State University, receiving her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 1958. Irma spent a year as School Psychologist with the Atlanta School System, then accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Psychology at Georgia

State University (then the Georgia State College of Business Administration) where she taught a course in Adjustment that became legendary, as did her graduate course, The Person of the Psychotherapist. She and Dr. Joen Fagan attended the first workshop led by Dr. Fritz Perls, the originator of Gestalt Therapy, at Esalen on the Big Sur coast. Fritz chose her to co-lead workshops with him. She and Joen edited one of the first books on Gestalt Therapy which was translated into 4 languages. Traveling back and forth to California, she met and became friends with many of the most important therapists of the 1960's, a time that saw a flourishing of major developments in psychotherapy. Irma is survived by her life partner of 55 years, Joen Fagan, and her cousin and chosen child, Deena Flamm of Orlando, Florida. Also on her mother's side she leaves behind her cousins Elizabeth Cagle Flamm and William Cagle of Sanford, Florida. Close cousins from her father's family are Shirley Shepherd Johnston, Betsy Shepherd Ancrum, and Shepherd Johnston Chuites, all of South Carolina. Her larger family includes many psychotherapists whom she trained, friends from the American Academy of Psychotherapists, and a group of 20 women with whom she met with annually for 13 years in Isla Mujeres, Mexico. A memorial service will be held at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1191 Cliff Valley Way, NE, on Sunday, March 21 at 3:00. For directions, go to www.uuca.org. The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Atlanta Symphony or your own favorite charity. Arrangements by Medford-Peden Funeral Home & Crematory, (770) 427-8447.



Remembering Marilyn Rosanes-Berrett

Marilyn Rosanes-Berrett passed away December 27, 2009 at age 89. She was a renowned Gestalt therapist and founded THE GESTALT CENTER FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY AND TRAINING in New York City in 1967 in order to carry on and expand the teachings of her friend and mentor, Dr. Frederick (Fritz) Perls, the founder of Gestalt Therapy. Ten years later the Center became the first NY State chartered non-profit institution to offer therapeutic services and training totally within a Gestalt framework, and with authority to grant Certificates of Completion to licensed professionals.



From Jack Neggerman (posted on AAGT Members Lists):

March,14,1970

Dear Colleagues:

40 years ago today was Fritz's' last day on earth. He died on March,14,1970 in Chicago at the Weiss Memorial hospital. Coincidentally, AAGT was conceived (but not born) nearby in the same city, at the Congress Hotel, 19 years later.

In remembrance here are two quotes from people who were touched by Fritz:

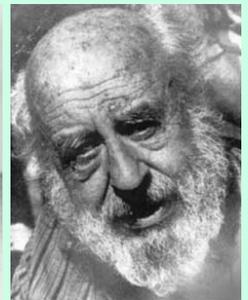
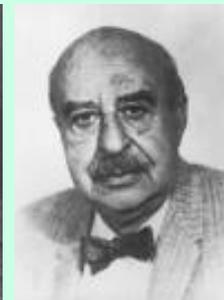
"Dear Fritz,
I remember mostly your love, your warmth, and you gentleness whenever someone was open and honest-whether saint or honestly bastard. I also remember how brutal you were in the face of dishonesty, refusing to tolerate deception of any kind. I know that you disliked being brutal- you much preferred to live and flow with people in awareness... You touched many people with your life; I wish could see how many you are reaching through your legacy of books, tapes and films. There are tears of love in my eyes as write this, and I can hear your deep rich voice saying "There's some beautiful melting going on." Thank you Fritz for leading me to the edge of discovery, and for showing me the tools for my continuing journey. Steve" (John O. Stevens)
~~~~~

"Dear Fritz

You came and you did what you wanted to do, and a lot of us fell in love with you and the way you were. You were what you talked about, and that's rare among men. Your words were easy to hear, your voice awoke my sleeping hope, and right now I can remember the tears which came often to your eyes when there was a special amount of love around...

But that is all past now and now you have been gone a year. There are a number of us, pupils in your school of life, who are still learning from you...the recognition of your guidance fills my heart with gratitude that once you touched my life and taught me that I am here now with a pen in my hand, sending love-energy down the corridors of my mind to you an old teacher, wherever you are.

As ever, Bob Hall" (Robert Hall, Forward to [In and Out of the Garbage Pail](#))

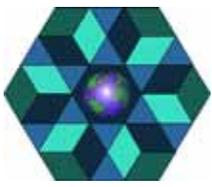


## [AAGT Board Minutes Online](#)

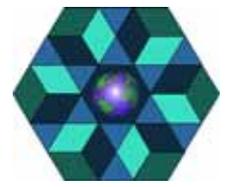
The AAGT Board Minutes can be viewed online at [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org). Click on the "About AAGT" link, then go to the AAGT Executive Council.

## [Join the AAGT Member's List](#)

To join the AAGT Members list e-mail your request to [aagtone@gmail.com](mailto:aagtone@gmail.com)



# AAGT 2010 Annual Meeting Announcement Philadelphia, June 5, 2010



## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS - AAGT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following positions for the Officers and the Board will be filled through election at the Philadelphia Conference:

- President [ 2-year term]
- Treasurer [2-year term]
- Secretary [ 2-year term]
- Interest Group Coordinator [ 3-year term]
- Membership Chairperson [ 3 -year term]
- Organizational Members Rep. [ 1-year term]
- RCP Chair [ 1 -year term]
- Treasurer-elect [1-year term, followed by assuming treasurer's office].

Bud Feder has agreed to serve as the ad hoc chair for nominations. All nominations for the above positions, including self-nominations, should be sent to him at [bfeder@comcast.net](mailto:bfeder@comcast.net). He also needs 3 persons to assist him in this process.

*If you are interested in running for an office or nominating someone, please access our Website, [www.AAGT.org](http://www.AAGT.org), and read the descriptions of these Board positions in the section in our Constitution and By-Laws.*

#### Position Description: Secretary, by Sarah Fallon

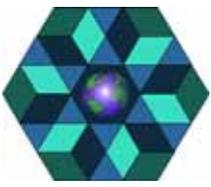
I shall be standing down from the post of Secretary in Philadelphia and should like to encourage interested members to step forward.

What does the post entail? Firstly, a commitment to attend every board meeting, as the secretary's non-attendance creates a significant impact on the administrative aspects of the meeting. Board meetings are held once a month, usually at the same time, and on the same day. As Secretary, I record attendance and take the minutes of the meeting as it is happening. It would be necessary to have a hands free/head-set phone facility to do this. After the meeting I circulate the draft of the minutes to board members so people can make any amendments, or add anything that I have missed. This usually takes a few days, due to time-zones and members' other commitments. After amending them, I make contact with our webmaster about posting them on the website. As with other board members, there is a requirement to be available for discussion of board matters in an ongoing way – this is usually done over email. There is also a requirement to attend the Annual General Meetings, taking and distributing minutes as above, and taking necessary copies of paperwork/reports to the venue to distribute to those attending. As above, it's also necessary to process and circulate minutes and reports afterwards, for checking before final publication.

Things to consider: I'd recommend that anyone interested in standing gets clarity on the time and date of the meetings. When I stood, I knew that I could make the times as I had been on the board for the previous two years in my capacity as conference convenor and the times remained unchanged. However, when we had to change the times as a one-off I could not be flexible due to my family situation. I realised how little flexibility having a family affords me, and this might be worth considering for any potential candidate. It can be difficult both to engage fully in the discussion and to take the minutes simultaneously. However, I also think there are ways of making this easier. The secretary has a commitment to attend the AGMs during the term of office. For me, this meant attending the AEGT conference in Madrid, and also the AAGT conference in Philadelphia. These have required a lot from me in terms of expense, using up my holiday allowance and childcare issues. I have to be honest and say that, had I not been Secretary, I wouldn't have attended both AGMs due to these issues. I don't regret my attendance in any way but I want to be transparent that, alongside the rewards, there is a cost to this commitment.

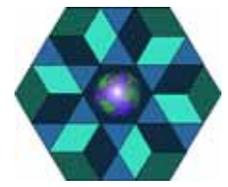
What I enjoyed? It's a great way to become more involved in the organisation. I have liked that the role requirements of Secretary are clearly defined. This has meant that it has been fairly easy to know whether I was fulfilling my duties for the term of office. This might be helpful for someone who isn't sure they're up to a board position – as long as you are completing the tasks above, and engaging in the board discussions, then you will be. Having said that, I have always felt very aware that anything extra I was prepared to offer would always be very welcome too. I have been very happy to be able to offer something to the organisation and have gained a lot from my last four years on the board. I would be happy to discuss the role further with anyone who is interested.





# AAGT 2010 Annual Meeting Announcement

## Philadelphia, June 5, 2010



### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA (Cont'd)

#### **Proposal to the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (AAGT) From the AAGT Research Task Force**

##### Background to proposal:

At the 2009 annual meeting of the AAGT, Christine Stevens and Philip Brownell became co-chairs of the Research Task Force for the AAGT and began consulting with established researchers. In May of 2009 the research task force identified five possible ways for the AAGT to support research involving gestalt therapy:

- Start a collaborative research project.
- Create a team of research-oriented trainers to help existing training institutes augment their programs with regard to research.
- Collaborate with existing research projects at university laboratories.
- Create a research resource "barrel" where gestalt researchers might use tests, scales, designs, and tools for data assessment.
- Hold periodic conferences focused on research.

In March 2010 the Research Task Force considered the first tangible step in actualizing support for research and produced the following proposal for vote at the 2010 AGM of the AAGT.

Proposal: *That the AAGT actively support the generation of research focused on gestalt therapy so as to contribute to the research evidence for the practice of gestalt therapy.*

In order to accomplish that general purpose, we propose (A.) that the AAGT establish a Research Support Fund, to which members might contribute, but also into which grant money might be deposited, and which would be administered by the Co-chairs of the Research Task Force in consultation with both the Research Task Force and the Board of the AAGT. In addition, we propose (B.) to create an international conference on research to be held at a suitable venue in 2012 or 2013. Also, in order to get actual research going, we propose (C.) that the AAGT Task Force be empowered to initiate specific research with short and long-term projects as follows and to see to their publication in reviewed journals:

1. A series of studies utilizing the single-case research design that is accepted by Division 12 (The Society for Clinical Psychology) of the American Psychological Association as being a "logical equivalent" to random, controlled treatments (Chambless and Holon, 1998). These kinds of studies also qualify as practice-based evidence and allow individual gestalt therapists to generate data in keeping with the way gestalt therapy is actually practiced. Three clusters of 3 or 4 therapists each are envisioned in this design, with each cluster operating independently of the others while still centrally coordinated. There may be more clusters to join the effort after we get going, but this would be a minimum. In this each therapist would contribute 3 or 4 single-case studies. This would yield between 27 and 36 single-case studies (at least), and the data would then be analyzed and written up. This number is con-

sidered significant by any standard of experimental psychology. Thus, a cluster of therapists would be working in the UK, another in the USA, and another through interested colleagues in Russia (and there may be another forming in France). Publication would be targeted at APA journals.

2. A series of studies utilizing qualitative designs similar to those described in-depth in a recent book by Linda Finlay and Ken Evans (*Relational-centered Research for Psychotherapists*, 2009, Wiley-Blackwell); it is a "relational-centered" approach to qualitative research that might be particularly attractive to gestalt therapists.

3. A series of studies utilizing quantitative designs, which would likely require the development of partnerships between clinics and universities.

4. A series of mixed methods research studies to include "case studies" that blend features from both 1 and 2 above and other mixed-methods models that utilize both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

##### *Addendum to the original proposal:*

*The AAGT Research Task Force, in consultation with the Gestalt International Study Center, recommends that we accept the offer of GISC to host the Research Conference at GISC at a suitable time in 2013. Therefore, the original proposal should be amended to reflect this detail.*

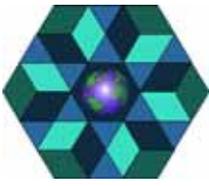
*Submitted for consideration by Phil on behalf of Christine and the rest of the AAGT's Research Task Force.*

#### **Fourth Draft AAGT Development Fund Proposal**

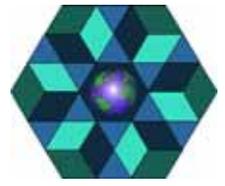
**OVERVIEW:** AAGT has already demonstrated that it can raise and distribute funds to financially-challenged individuals to enable them to attend our conferences. The current proposal is to create a second or ancillary fund, tentatively called a Development Fund, which would be used to sponsor trainings and workshops in financially-challenged communities [countries, regions, institutes, etc]. The program would be set up so as to enable authorized trainers, leaders or therapists [T's] to travel to the above-mentioned recipient communities [RC's]. This program is in line with AAGT's goal of advancing gestalt therapy. Additionally it might benefit AAGT by promoting the organization, enlisting new members and/or new regions.

Although at first glance this might seem a simple operation, further scrutiny reveals a number of details and aspect which need careful consideration, among them being publicity for the program, fundraising, creating T's resources database, screening of applicants [both communities and T's], allocating the funds and evaluating the effectiveness of the program. Here are our ideas about these aspects:

1] Oversight: an ongoing Development Fund Oversight Committee [DFOC] would be formed with the responsibility for the above tasks [screening, allocating evaluating, etc]. This committee would report to the Board and /or to the treasurer



# AAGT 2010 Annual Meeting Announcement Philadelphia, June 5, 2010



## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA (Cont'd)

and its chair would be a board member, similar to the situation with the Scholarship Fund. This committee or review panel would be drawn in such a way that it is representative of all aspects of AAGT, not just the leadership

2] Resources database: an internet resource listing T's who may be available to do non-paid work in RC's. This could be specific if it comes to areas of interest, dates available, frequency. DFOC could act as a matching agency and could encourage the initial contact between RC's and T's.

3] Fund-raising: A variety of methods might be employed to raise funds for this program, again similar to what has been done with the Scholarship Fund. The latter has raised funds by encouraging members to mount special fund-raising events [workshops, concerts, etc], by a line item in the biennial conference registration form, by contributions from pre-conference workshops, thru film showings, by the infamous conference auctions, etc] and by personal solicitation and other means. If possible we would also enlist interested trainers as well as RC's to share some fund-raising responsibility and the DFOC could assist with the organization of events, solicitation, etc. The current DFOC is already in a good position to do this with Bud Feder (Scholarship), Charlie Bowman (Web and Newsletter) and Adam Kinzel (Member communications). It has also been suggested that this fund be incorporated into the Scholarship Fund whose committee would allocate for both scholarships and development. Although this is a possibility and would be accepted by the proposers, this proposal suggests that the funds be separate. This would ensure that donors knew exactly what they were donating for

4] Uses of the funds raised: we recommend that monies be allocated to the T's for travel expenses only. It is anticipated that the funded groups would handle the cost of renting a venue, interpreting [if needed], advertising, room and board and local travel arrangements for the T, which in some circumstances the fund could assist them with. T's would not be reimbursed for earnings lost nor would they receive a training fee. In special circumstances RC's may apply for funding to assist the above-mentioned costs which would be done on a separate application with explanation to justify the additional funding. Another possibility is that a DFOC member would chair a committee built by the RC and the T to allocate funds for the training. That way the expenditures would be decided locally with input from AAGT DFOC, too. We would like to see it worked out without excessive paperwork or bureaucracy and at the same time build in a respectable level of accountability. Maybe we should require the RC/T to file a report of the experience for the membership, which could distribute via Newsletter, web or e-mail.

5] Program evaluation: some kind of feedback on the program would be needed. In the case of the Scholarship Fund, this has been informal and impromptu [frequently at conferences, scholarship recipients have expressed their appreciation and satisfaction at community meetings]. Obviously this would not apply to this program, so a different approach needs to be developed by the DFOC.

6] Publicity & Screening: The DFOC would be respon-

sible for publicizing the program, developing application protocols for both T's and RC's and dealing with applications from them.

Please note that the proposal specifically avoids any implication that AAGT will provide any complete or accredited training programs.

Additional aspects: we anticipate that as the program evolves, standards concerning eligibility, themes, evaluations, etc will need to be established by the DFOC with oversight by the board or the membership.

- *Respectfully Submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Development Fund - Bud Feder, Charlie Bowman and Adam Kinzel*

## **Proposal for consideration at the AGM in Philadelphia concerning Gestalt!**

That the electronic journal known as Gestalt! be taken over by the AAGT so as to become the official journal of the AAGT, under the oversight of the Director of Communications and under the leadership of three Editors: Dan Bloom, Philip Brownell, and Charlie Bowman. They would put together a group of associates and/or readers, solicit manuscripts, establish guidelines, and see to production. The journal would have two issue per year. It would become a team effort, not the territory nor responsibility of any one person, and it would become the possession entirely of the AAGT with no strings attached, free to develop over time according to the needs of the AAGT. The electronic journal has been in publication since 1996, and it is listed at the American Psychological Association's PsycInfo database. It is branded on the internet and already has thousands of readers. It is free, but could be used to generate publicity revenue for the organization.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philip Brownell

## **Proposal for Biennial Conference Venues**

Proposed that (1) we hold the 2012 biennial conference in Israel, with Talia Levine Bar-Yoseph as convener (with an appropriate co-convener) and the support of the gestalt community in Israel; (2) that we hold the 2014 conference in Korea with Jungkyu Kim as conference convener (with an appropriate co-convener) and the support of the gestalt community in Korea; (3) that we encourage the formation of a regional AAGT group and conference in Korea during the interim; (4) that we move to build a USA national gestalt organization to address the unique needs of our gestalt colleagues who live in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philip Brownell

**The annual meeting agenda must be received and distributed to the membership 45 days prior to the annual meeting although notice does not restrict the right of any member to add a new issue to the agenda in any meeting of the membership.**



# AAGT's Founding Dates & Documentation



What is considered to be the date of AAGT's founding is on **April 10, 1991**. This day-long meeting in Manhattan Beach, California was about 8 hours long, all of which was video-taped for posterity. That is "the day that will live in infamy" – when we decided to become an official organization and selected our name as the **Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy**. The day began with the Gestalt therapists from the Steering Committee that was formed in Boston the previous year and others who arrived early to be involved in the founding. Before breaking for lunch, the 24-member Steering Committee agreed to and signed a handwritten document with this heading, and which stated the following:

"Toward the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy and the Associating of Gestalt Therapists. Whereas, it is difficult to support the process of professional associating without a known public forum, which has both form and functions delineated, that keeps the process figural and the organizational structure as ground; It is hereby Moved that we declare ourselves as an organization to provide the "Ground" for the preservation and advancement of Gestalt Therapy, and that this organization be known as The Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy."

Several more Gestaltists entered the room as the day went on, with 60 signing the attendance roster. Most of them engaged in lively discussion about matters of concern regarding AAGT becoming an official body of the international Gestalt community. This group of Gestaltists has become regarded as the AAGT Founders, however the video tape of that session shows some people in attendance who did not sign the roster.

Jennifer Andrews  
Dolores Bate (Canada)  
Lyssa Bloom  
George Isaac Brown  
Judy Canfield  
Stan Clark  
Isabel Fredericson  
Zelda Friedman  
Nickie Godfrey  
Virginia Horowitz  
Richard Kitzler  
Olav Martin Lünd (Norway)  
Michael Vincent Miller  
Jack Neggerman  
Richard Parker  
Peter Philipsson (England)  
Janette Rainwater  
Stella Resnick  
Ed Silverman  
Ansel Woldt

Renzo Arnold (Finland)  
Isabella Bick  
Charles Bowman  
Judith Brown  
Felicia Carroll  
Sylvia Crocker  
Iris Fodor  
Irv Gadol  
Carl Hodges  
Emil Jech  
Candace Knight  
Joyce Magid  
Karen Moorehead-Jenkins  
Violet Oaklander  
Shannon Perneti  
Erving Polster  
Bob Resnick  
Dorian Schneidman  
Carol Swanson  
Les Wyman

Barbara Backstrand  
Jan Bidwell  
Maya Brand  
Todd Burley  
David Clark  
Bud Feder  
Norman Friedman  
Janice Roosevelt Girard  
Larry Horowitz  
Paul Justin  
Philip Lichtenberg  
Frank Millendorf  
Sue Moorehead  
Pat O'Shea  
Cereta Perry  
Miriam Polster  
Jorge Ribeico (Brazil)  
Alan Schwartz  
Eric Werthman  
Gary Yontef

What might be considered our **First Annual AAGT Meeting** was the following day, **April 11, 1991**, during the Town Hall Forum of the *Gestalt Journal Conference*, which included many Gestalt therapists not present the previous day – somewhere around 100 – 125 attended this meeting.

Another significant date in the founding of AAGT was when the initial **Constitution and By-Laws** were approved at our Second Annual Meeting in Boston on **April 2, 1992** in a day-long meeting preceding the *Gestalt Journal Conference*.

AAGT's application for a **Certificate of Incorporation** to *The Company Corporation* in the *State of Delaware* was dated **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1992**. The incorporating officers who signed the certificate were: **Maya Schrage Brand, AAGT Charter President; Jack Neggerman, AAGT Charter Treasurer; and Ansel Woldt, AAGT Charter Secretary**. These officers served as AAGT's first **Board of Directors**. We were officially incorporated **January 28, 1993**.

- Contributed by Ansel Woldt, AAGT Archivist.

## GESTALT INTERACTIVE GROUP THERAPY

*An Opportunity For Training And Personal Growth*

A ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

led by

DAN BLOOM & BUD FEDER

Sponsored by Northeast USA Regional AAGT

PROCEEDS GO TO THE AAGT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

May 1, 2010 at Gail Feinstein's office [80 E 11th St]  
Time: 10:00 am to 5: 00 pm. [with a sane lunch break]

During the workshop Dan and Bud work in a way they describe as "Interactive" - an approach they think is true to gestalt therapy's basic principles. The day will include experiential, participative learning, including creating the group. Particular emphasis is given to the conditions necessary for promoting change. There will be an opportunity for in vivo work by participants. Much of the work will creatively emerge from the group's interests. All of the work will be followed by discussion of the gestalt therapy group principles which are illuminated. The learning objectives of this workshop are two-fold: 1.) To enhance the therapeutic potential of group therapists by being grounded in gestalt therapy principles and interactive group practices. 2.) To enhance the social interactional processes on a more personal level by increasing participants' awareness and interpersonal contactfulness.

**Dan Bloom, MSW, JD** is a clinical social worker psychotherapist in private practice in NYC. He studied with Laura Perls, Isadore From and Richard Kitzler. He is a Fellow of the NYIGT and a full member of the European Assn. for Gestalt Therapy. Dan is the current president of AAGT and a former president of NYIGT. He is Editor in Chief of Studies in Gestalt Therapy: Dialogical Bridges. His writings on gestalt therapy have appeared widely and he teaches worldwide.

**Bud Feder, Ph.D.** is a psychologist in independent practice in New Jersey, who has been involved in gestalt therapy for over 40 years and trained with Laura Perls. He is a former President of AAGT, a faculty member at the NYIGT and trains all over the world. His books include *Beyond the Hot Seat Revisited*, *Peeling the Onion* and *Gestalt Group Therapy*. [Bud will have copies of these books for sale & signing.]

- ✦ Therapists at all levels of experience are encouraged to attend.
- ✦ Six hours of CE will be offered
- ✦ Cost: \$75 minimum. Of course larger donations are welcome
- ✦ **ALL NET PROCEEDS TO THE AAGT SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
- ✦ SPACE IS LIMITED TO TWELVE PARTICIPANTS BESIDES THE LEADERS
- ✦ Registration via check payable to AAGT and sent to:

Bud Feder  
37 Brunswick Rd  
Montclair, NJ 07042  
973/746-6815  
bfeder@comcast.net

*Many thanks to Gail Feinstein for the generous permission to use her lovely office at no charge!*

*The AAGT Scholarship Fund enables many persons from all over the world to attend AAGT conferences. So far this year over \$15,000 has been granted to 21 persons from six countries including Australia, France, Northern Ireland, England, Egypt and the USA. These persons will attend the conference and not only benefit from it but also enrich the experience for all. This financial support is in line with AAGT's principles of enabling as many as we can to attend.*

*AAGT is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AAGT maintains responsibility for this program and its contents. (APA-MCEP #1007)*



# Conference Highlights



**CONTINUITY AND CHANGE: GESTALT THERAPY NOW**

-  **AAGT Process Groups & Community Meetings**
-  **22 Peer Reviewed Pre-Conference Workshops**
-  **49 Peer Reviewed Workshops**
-  **6 Panel Presentations**
-  **8 Invited Presentations**
-  **Newcomer's Orientation**
-  **Dinner Dance, Golf Outing & AAGT Auction**
-  **Invited Presenters & Panelists:**

Frank Staemmler  
(Germany)

Lynne Jacobs (USA)

Myriam Munoz (Mexico)

Gordon Wheeler (USA)

Philip Lichtenberg (USA)

Jean-Marie Robine (France)

Mary Lou Schack (USA)

Erv Polster (USA)

Cornelia Muth (Germany)

Michael Clemmens (USA)

Bob Resnick (USA)

Dan Bloom (USA)

Donna Orange (USA)

Philip Brownell (Bermuda)

Iris Fodor (USA)

Eva Gold (USA)

Brian Arnell (USA)

Christine Stevens (England)

Sylvia Crocker (USA)

Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb  
(Italy)

Neil Harris (UK)

Bruce Aaron (USA)

Gail Feinstein (USA)

Steve Zahn (USA)

Victor Daniels (USA)

Marilyn Myles (USA)

Kailash Tuli (India)

Billy Desmond (UK)

Edwin Nevis (USA)

Sonia Nevis (USA)

David Henrich (USA)

Carol Brockmon (USA)

Ruella Frank (USA)

Denise Tervo ( USA )

Bronagh Starrs (Ireland)

Mark McConville (USA)

Robert Kolodny (USA)

Mark Magerman (USA)

Talia Levine-Bar Joseph (Israel)

Jon Blend (UK)

Will Adams (USA)



- Photo courtesy of Ansel Woldt

The conference is honoring  
**Philip Lichtenberg**  
&  
dedicated to the memory of  
**Richard Kitzler**



# 2010 Conference Chairs & Co-Chairs



## Thank You Volunteers!

|                       |                     |                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-conveners:         | Cathy Gray          | <a href="mailto:cathybgray@gmail.com">cathybgray@gmail.com</a>                         |
|                       | Burt Lazarin        | <a href="mailto:BRlaz@aol.com">BRlaz@aol.com</a>                                       |
| Presentations         | Marlene Blumenthal  | <a href="mailto:marloblum@yahoo.com">marloblum@yahoo.com</a>                           |
|                       | Gail Feinstein      | <a href="mailto:ursaluna@aol.com">ursaluna@aol.com</a>                                 |
| Pre-conference:       | Ann Bowman          | <a href="mailto:bowmanca@AOL.COM">bowmanca@AOL.COM</a>                                 |
|                       | Tine van Wijk       | <a href="mailto:dewalvis@XS4ALL.NL">dewalvis@XS4ALL.NL</a>                             |
| Peer Review:          | Charlie Bowman      | <a href="mailto:aagtone@GMAIL.COM">aagtone@GMAIL.COM</a>                               |
|                       | Bea MacKay          | <a href="mailto:bea@DRBEAMACKAY.COM">bea@DRBEAMACKAY.COM</a>                           |
| Website:              | Phil Brownell       | <a href="mailto:philbrownell@LOGIC.BM">philbrownell@LOGIC.BM</a>                       |
| Publicity:            | Marcy Stern         | <a href="mailto:imawareru@comcast.net">imawareru@comcast.net</a>                       |
|                       | Adam Weitz          | <a href="mailto:Aweitz@nyc.rr.com">Aweitz@nyc.rr.com</a>                               |
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|                       | Jack Aylward        | <a href="mailto:JACKatPCC@aol.com">JACKatPCC@aol.com</a>                               |
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| Auction:              | Eric Hoffman        | <a href="mailto:eeric1@COMCAST.NET">eeric1@COMCAST.NET</a>                             |
| Newcomers:            | Marilyn Miles       | <a href="mailto:mylestherapy@comcast.net">mylestherapy@comcast.net</a>                 |
|                       | Rodney Cole         | <a href="mailto:Rodney.Cole@WESLEYMISSION.ORG.AU">Rodney.Cole@WESLEYMISSION.ORG.AU</a> |
| Publicity:            | Robert DeVos        | <a href="mailto:rhdevos@alice.nl">rhdevos@alice.nl</a>                                 |
| Housing:              | Ellen Cohen         | <a href="mailto:whitewinde@comcast.net">whitewinde@comcast.net</a>                     |
| CE/evaluations:       | Ansel Woldt         | <a href="mailto:NANSELW@aol.com">NANSELW@aol.com</a>                                   |
|                       | Peter Cole          | <a href="mailto:Peterhayscole@GMAIL.COM">Peterhayscole@GMAIL.COM</a>                   |
| Ceilidh/Music Night:  | Jon Blend           | <a href="mailto:life-changes@NTLWORLD.COM">life-changes@NTLWORLD.COM</a>               |
| Registration:         | Adam Weitz          | <a href="mailto:aweitz@nyc.rr.com">aweitz@nyc.rr.com</a>                               |
| On-site Registration: | Jane Anderson       | <a href="mailto:jane.g.anderson@comcast.net">jane.g.anderson@comcast.net</a>           |
|                       | Karen Ginsburg      | <a href="mailto:kqinz68@gmail.com">kqinz68@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Special Projects:     | Cindy Orns          | <a href="mailto:cindyom@comcast.net">cindyom@comcast.net</a>                           |
| Welcome Committee:    | Kathy Bepler        | <a href="mailto:kbepler1@verizon.net">kbepler1@verizon.net</a>                         |
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|                       | Lisa Pozzi          | <a href="mailto:lpozzi@wedqepc.com">lpozzi@wedqepc.com</a>                             |
| Presenters Hosts:     | Rosemary Flannery   | <a href="mailto:rflanne@yahoo.com">rflanne@yahoo.com</a>                               |
|                       | Dolly Schulman      | <a href="mailto:heartwarmingl@gmail.com">heartwarmingl@gmail.com</a>                   |
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| Hotel Room Sharing :  | Maria Kirchner      | <a href="mailto:Mariapkirchner@gmail.com">Mariapkirchner@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Program Publication:  | Nancy Bristol       | <a href="mailto:ndbristol@aol.com">ndbristol@aol.com</a>                               |
| On-site Coordinator:  | Brian Arnell        | <a href="mailto:brianarnell@earthlink.net">brianarnell@earthlink.net</a>               |
| Photographer          | Randy Baird         | <a href="mailto:randyabaird@yahoo.com">randyabaird@yahoo.com</a>                       |



# Preconference Workshops



## PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Half-Day Preconference workshops are \$80 with Conference Registration and \$100 without  
 Full-Day Preconference workshops are \$120 with Conference Registration and \$140 without

TO REGISTER GO TO [HTTP://WWW.AAGT.ORG](http://www.aagt.org) AND  
 FOLLOW THE LINKS TO THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PAGES OR [CLICK HERE](#)

## June 1st - Tuesday - Full Day Workshops: 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM

### A Gestalt Therapy Group Process Marathon For Personal Growth - Bud Feder, Jack Aylward

This personal growth marathon will emphasize gestalt therapy group process, though some hot seat work will be incorporated.

### Couples Therapy Revisited: Two Become One And Then There Are None - Robert Resnick & Rita Resnick

After a presentation of their model of relationships, couples and couples therapy, the Resnicks will demonstrate their way of working with volunteer couples and/or video followed by relating the clinical work to the theory. The couples will be included in the entire discussion as well as the theory presentation, making the experience transparent and inclusive. Questions and comments will be encouraged as will comparisons with other couples therapy models – systemic, CBT, EFT, contemporary psychoanalytic, postmodern, other gestalt models, etc. Emphasis will be on two basic issues for couples: how to be with an other and maintain a self... and, dealing with differences. Bring your biases, your issues, your ability to perceptually reorganize and, most importantly, your sense of humor.

### A Dramatic Approach To Gestalt Dreamwork - Sylvia Fleming Crocker

This presentation demonstrates a purely gestalt version of psychodrama in working with recurrent and vivid dreams. Like classical psychodrama, gestalt drama has the dreamer choose members of the group to play people and other elements that appear in the dream. In psychodrama these persons attempt to improvise the several parts on the basis of the dreamer's description. This results in an admixture of psychological material. In contrast, gestalt drama uses role reversal throughout the process in ways that permit the dreamer to be the only speaker as the dreamwork unfolds. In this way, all of the psychological material belongs to the dreamer. The hidden existential meaning of the dream emerges as the work progresses, permitting the dreamer to address some important issue in his or her situation or in his or her self-understanding. Not only is this process remarkable and inspirational for everyone involved, it also involves the group deeply in the process, thus fostering a deepening

### A Painless Primer On Research: How To Help The Gestalt World Develop An Evidence Base - Phil Brownell

Research is not just for academics; it contributes to our understanding of how gestalt therapy works and is instrumental to the refining of our theory. Knowing how to do research and track one's own outcomes can help individual therapists improve their practices; it can help trainers and training institutes improve their methods. Gestalt therapy is entering a new phase in its development and that is being driven by the necessity of producing evidence to support practice. This workshop will provide an orientation to research, descriptions of research designs useful at the level of practice for tracking process and supporting individual clinical practices, opportunities to participate in actual research projects, and resources for study and networking. Didactic, experiential, and dialogical teaching methods will be utilized.

### Creativity, Process And Experiment - Lee Zevy

Creating experiments that spontaneously bracket an aspect of the multifaceted process of therapy, individual or group, have the power to deepen the work and the relational connection between client and therapist because they can bring greater awareness and clarity to the experience of the moment. Through the use of dialogue, creative exercises and guided spontaneous experiments workshop participants, as individuals and group members, will discover how to allow the creative impulses that arise out of co-created therapeutic relationships to form and organize meaningful experiments that allow for greater insight. Aspects of gestalt therapy theory and practice; contact, self and functions of self, field and figure/ground will be integrated into the knowledge and experience of the workshop.



# Preconference Workshops



## How Neuroscience Research Supports Gestalt Therapy's Effectiveness and Directs us to Greater Effectiveness - Ginny McIntosh

The recent neuroscience research of the brain has brought us exciting and useful validation and new understandings of gestalt theory and the art of doing it. This workshop will include lectures on the neuroscience of the brain as it relates to what we do as gestaltists. Summaries of what Louis Cozolino, Daniel j. Siegel, among a few others', research will be interwoven with issues of dissociation, trauma, loss, etc., so that the new brain research becomes usable to us as gestalt therapists. Most important, the areas of gestalt theory which are most validated by this research will be highlighted and amplified. These areas include unfinished business, awareness, selfing, contact, bodily sensations, and facilitating the working through process. Solo and dyadic exercises as well as discussion will accompany the mini lectures. Handouts will be provided. group experience.

## June 1st - Tuesday - Half Day Workshops: 2:30 PM - 6:30 PM

### I-Thou as Transcultural Dialogue in Groups - Cornelia Muth

For the last years I have been conducting groups of dialogue within my university teaching. One aim of this teaching is thinking together in comparison to debate against each other; another one is to widen students' awareness of themselves and others which will ground their social work practice for the sake of people's intercultural integration. The lack of mutual responding between the helpless and helping people especially challenges power of negative aggression which is a result of mistrust and resignation. According to the gestalt approach aggression can also be a constructive energy, but when it dissociates destruction follows: people stop investing in relation. Using Martin Buber's insights i created my own dialogical setting which invites people to become interested in the otherness.

### Continuity And Change: Preparing Ourselves For The Conference Through Experiments In Reflective Writing Christine Stevens

A day to open up and engage personally with the themes of the coming conference. The time will be structured supportively to enable participants to play with words in creative ways, discovering personal and shared connections with continuity and change in their experience of life and work.

You do not have to be an established writer or poet to enjoy this workshop. When we give ourselves the time and permission to "play" with creative media, we can release and learn from the wisdom and creativity of our imaginative energies which we all have as human beings.

## June 2nd - Wednesday - Full Day Workshops: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

### Experiential Gestalt Group: Here And Now, What And How, I And Thou - Ansel Woldt

This will be a small group experience (limited to 12) in which participants can experience the essential elements of a gestalt personal growth group. Participants will be invited to engage in activities that value six basic therapeutic processes of gestalt therapy. Group facilitation will focus on the 'here and now,' the 'what and how,' and the 'I – thou' of therapeutic engagement. Principles of existentialism, phenomenology, field theory and dialogue undergirding these processes will be explored in the safe emergence of this presenter's 40+ years experience with gestalt pedagogy and psychotherapy.

### The Secret Language Of Intimacy - Robert Lee

In this workshop we will explore the hidden elements in couples dynamics, shedding light on couples darkest moments which are often mysterious and difficult to understand, seeming to defy the depth of caring and importance couple members feel for one another. Through experiential exercises, lecture, practice, and discussion we will learn Robert Lee's gestalt model, based in shame and belonging, stemming from his thirty-plus years of experience, research, and writings (a model which he has presented around the world in places such as London, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Sicily, Ireland, Slovenia, Esalen, and other us locations). We will explore how this practical gestalt model offers the opportunity to transform the often heart-wrenching effects of hidden shame—which, if left unattended, lead to disconnection and ultimate separation—into openings for greater connection and intimacy.

### Constellations And Gestalt: A Deeper Look - Ty Francis, Gordon Wheeler, Deborah Ullman, Nancy Lunney-Wheeler

Systemic Constellations work, pioneered by Bert Hellinger, has often been regarded as antithetical to a Gestalt approach to personal and systemic change. A newer generation of Systemic Constellation facilitators, many of them deeply steeped in Gestalt training, are now developing this work in "Gestalt" directions, emphasizing awareness, embodied experience, emotion, re-



# Preconference Workshops



relationship, intentionality, field sensitivity, choice, support, and meaning-making. Where traditional Gestalt work has often emphasized figure formation and self supports, Systemic Constellations tend to focus on issues and blockages of ground. These dynamics are only accessible inferentially and experimentally through the embodied awareness of the Constellation participants -- thus through a process of Gestalt-based inquiry and dialogue. In this way a rapprochement and a complementarity of these two powerful approaches become possible. In this workshop, using live demonstrations and cases presented by participants, we will explore the potential for synergy of these two radical approaches, both of them known for their capacity to bring a fresh perspective on deeply "fixed" gestalts and unsatisfying life patterns. Our workshop goal will be collaboration between facilitators and participants as we articulate together the terms of this opportunity for reflective synergy, potentially adding power to each approach. Cases may be drawn from both work and family settings, exploring both large and small system dynamics.

## **Improvising A Relationship: Contacting Through Music - Gary Gray**

Improvising music with others brings us fully into the present as we go about the complicated process of contributing our rhythm, our silence, our listening, our soloing, our supporting and our harmony. This workshop is designed for participants with no musical experience all the way to a lot of musical experience. We will engage in a variety of experiments, alone, in small groups or as a whole group all designed to make contact in the moment through our musical creativity (don't say you don't have any). Participants will learn simple techniques for bringing music into the therapy practice, they will practice awareness in an unfamiliar (non-conversational) context, they will experiment with their own anxiety and excitement, and they might discover something entirely new about themselves. Participants are encouraged to bring their own instruments, drums, etc., but plenty of music making tools will be provided.

## **Elements In The Nature Of Dialogue - Phil Lichtenberg**

Dialogue involves the creation and support of individual particularity of all participants in the relation leading to communion among them at final contact. There are "four corners" each participant addresses in fulsome dialogue including: what each participant wants, how each is reacting to the other(s), including self, and how each seeks to learn how other(s) are receiving him or her. The overlap of defining self and building community is emphasized. Using presentation of theory and small group experiments, the presenter elucidates and clarifies critical issues such as strong feelings, "incomplete 'i' statements," and the role of confident expectation in persons being open to being influenced.

## **Women and Aggression - Ann Bowman, Judy Graham, Gail Feinstein**

For the last several conferences we have been exploring what we call "women's work" from empowerment and authenticity to intimacy of being a woman. Throughout this work the figure that repeatedly emerges concerns women in the face of conflict. This workshop goes deeper into the uniqueness of women's experience of aggression within the context of a women's group. Through didactic and experiential methods we will uncover how we creatively adjust to and defend against our aggression - and how we stay hidden. Participants will be invited to explore how aggression is held in our bodies and what support is needed to discover disowned parts of ourselves as we stay with the process to experience our edge (our boundaries) within a relational field.

## **June 2nd - Wednesday - Half Day Workshops: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

### **Exploring Nonverbal Processes Within Therapy: A Developmental Perspective - Ruella Frank**

Nonverbal expression is the basis of all interaction and is most clearly evident in the first year of life, where it is the primary mode of communicating and the root of all later dialogue. When psychotherapists familiarize themselves with developing interactions between parent and baby in this first year, they clearly see the organizing of contacting processes. Through this developmental lens, it is possible to observe and understand these elemental organizing actions as they continue to function in the interactive patterns of adult client and therapist. Through movement experiments, psychotherapists will be introduced to a lexicon of non-verbal descriptors and identifications that will refine their awareness --- what they see and what they feel -- within the relational field, thus enabling them to create more effective interventions.

### **A Gestalt View Of Power And "Its" Field: And What We Can Do About It - Toni Gilligan & Carl Hodges**

How do we apply core understandings of gestalt therapy theory to the nature and experience of power -- political and personal? How might such an analysis change the way we view our potential and what it is to be an active citizen? We will experiment with making visible the flow of power. We will examine the fixed gestalts revealed by this experiment. We will experiment with creating a way of being together that challenges these fixed gestalts.



# Full Conference Schedule



## Schedule At A Glance

|          |                                                                                                       |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 1-2 | Full and Half Day Preconference workshops                                                             |
| June 2   | Orientations, Welcoming Reception, Conference Opening                                                 |
| June 3   | Plenary, Workshops , Ceilidh                                                                          |
| June 4   | Honoring Phil Lichtenberg, Workshops, Irish Interest Group Meeting                                    |
| June 5   | Invitational Workshops, Richard Kitzler Memorial, Community & Annual Meeting, Dinner/Dance & Auctions |
| June 6   | Workshops, Closing Community Meeting                                                                  |

### JUNE 1 - TUESDAY

#### **AM**

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 7:00 - 9:00  | Breakfast Buffet         |
| 8:00 - 12:00 | Registration             |
| 9:00 - 1:00  | Pre-conference Workshops |

#### **PM**

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1:00 - 2:30 | Lunch on your own          |
| 2:30 - 6:30 | Pre-conference Workshops   |
| 6:30        | Dinner on your own         |
| 7:00 - ???  | Conference Planners' Party |

### June 2 - WEDNESDAY

#### **AM**

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 7:00 - 9:00  | Breakfast Buffet         |
| 8:00 - 12:00 | Registration             |
| 9:00 - 1:00  | Pre-conference Workshops |

#### **PM**

|              |                                                                  |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:00 - 2:00  | Lunch provided                                                   |
| 2:00 - 6:00  | Pre-conference Workshops                                         |
| 6:00 - 7:30  | Process Group Leaders Mtg.                                       |
| 6:30 - 7:30  | Newcomers Orientation                                            |
| 7:30 - 8:30  | Welcoming Reception, (Food and Cash Bar)                         |
| 8:30 - 9:30  | Conference Opening                                               |
| 9:30 - 10:30 | Process Group Meeting (Immediately following Conference Opening) |

## AAGT GOLF OUTING - JUNE 2, 2010

On the morning of June 2, 2010, the inaugural AAGT Golf Outing will be held. Leaving from the hotel in the early morning and returning in time for golfers to participate in afternoon pre-conference workshops, Gestalt golfers will spend the morning making good contact with golf balls and each other. We will play at a nearby public course (greens fees approximately \$60). Transportation and club rentals will be arranged. All fees will be paid directly to the course and a \$25 non-refundable deposit will be required. Come see another side of the Philadelphia area! To sign up and arrange your deposit, send an email to Eric Hoffman at [eric1@comcast.net](mailto:eric1@comcast.net).



# Full Conference Schedule



## June 3 - THURSDAY

### AM

7:00 - 9:00 Breakfast Buffet and other morning activities

7:00 - 12:00 Registration

9:00 - 11:00 Opening Plenary  
Frank Staemmler, Lynne Jacobs, Myriam Munoz  
Moderated by Gordon Wheeler

11:00 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 1:30 Workshops

**Gestalt Philosophy of Being: Applications for Organizations (Invited Panel Presentation and Discussion)**  
Talia Levine Bar-Yoseph, Moderator; Robert Kolodny, Mark Magerman

**A Critical Exploration of the Integration of Buddhist Mindfulness Techniques in Gestalt Therapy**  
John Bennett

**Chasing Rainbows: Ethics in Gestalt Therapy – External Ethics, Foundational Ethics -- and the “Rainbow,” Emergent Ethos**  
Dan Bloom

**Adolescent Phenomenology and the Intimate Witness**  
Marlene Moss Blumenthal and Mark McConville

**Discovering Embodied History Within Postural Pattern: A Relational Perspective**  
Ruella Frank

**Our Internal Critic and the Cult of Individualism**  
Robert Lee

**How Does Gestalt Theory Inform the Changing Face of Researcher Identity? An Exploration of Gestalt Theory within the Context of Research, Singing, Pedagogy and Music Education**  
Liz Mellor and David Tune

**Developing Mutuality: The Techniques of Relational Gestalt Therapy**  
Ken Meyer

**Five Levels of Experiential Interventions to Enhance Gestalt Group Work**  
Ansel Woldt

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE: GESTALT THERAPY NOW

## PHILLY CEILIDH

**CALLING ALL MUSICIANS, POETS, SINGERS,  
STORYTELLERS,  
TAP DANCERS AND WRITERS**

Contact Jon Blend at

[life-changes@ntlworld.com](mailto:life-changes@ntlworld.com)



# Full Conference Schedule



## June 3 - THURSDAY

### PM

1:30 - 3:00      **LUNCH on your own (RCP Meeting - lunch provided)**  
 3:00 - 5:00      **Workshops**

**Tuning In and Tuning Out: Exploring Contact and Withdrawal through Music- Making in Gestalt Therapy**  
 Jon Blend

**Evidenced Based Movement, Research and the Regulation of Gestalt Therapy (Invited Panel Presentation and Discussion)**

Philip Brownell, Moderator; Vincent Beja, Meghann Case, Brad Larssen, Christine Stevens

**From Abandonment to Embodiment and Beyond: Emotional Relationality**

Gail Feinstein

**Creating Exact Moments of Healing**

Mariah Fenton Gladis

**Two-You Work – The Same As Gestalt Two-Chair Technique Only Different**

Bea Mackay

**Dialogue from the Classroom to the Boardroom: An Approach for Human Development**

Mary Grace Neville

**Time Travel: Healing the Inner Adult**

Marcy Stern and Deborah S. Kaufman

**Eastern Wisdom Can Empower Western Psycho-therapies**

Kailash Tuli

**The New Evolutionary Psychology: A Gestalt Perspective**

Deborah Ullman and Gordon Wheeler

5:00 - 5:30

Break

5:30 - 7:00

**Process Groups (2)**

7:00 - 8:00

**Process Group Leaders Check - in**

7:30

**GestaltPress/Routledge Reception Honoring All Authors**

**Dinner on your own**

9:30 - ???

**Evening Event - Ceilidh**

## ANYONE CAN BE A SPONSOR OF THE AAGT CONFERENCE

The cost of sponsorship is \$250. In return your name will be prominently displayed on the AAGT Conference Website along with a link to your web site. You will receive table space at the conference to display or sell publications, brochures, books, or information, your organization's or your name listed as a sponsor in the conference program and most of all you will know that you have helped to support AAGT and the 2010 Conference! To be a sponsor of the Conference simply send your check to:

**Adam Weitz  
 31 Union Square West #10D  
 New York, NY 10003 USA**

Please include how you want to be listed, a logo (.jpg or .gif) and/or link to your website (URL). If your logo is on your web site, we can "grab" it off the internet. Thanks for supporting the AAGT Conference!



# Full Conference Schedule



## June 4 - FRIDAY

### AM

7:00 - 9:00

Breakfast Buffet and other morning activities

9:00 - 11:00

**Plenary Honoring Philip Lichtenberg, Ph.D.**  
**Jean-Marie Robine, Erv Polster, Mary Lou Schack**  
**and Philip Lichtenberg**

11:00 - 11:30

Break

11:30 - 1:30

**Workshops**

### **Gestalt: Sustainability of Our Global Environment (Invited Panel Presentation and Discussion)**

Billy Desmond, Moderator; Will W Adams, Bruce Aaron, Gail Feinstein, Marilyn Myles, Kailash Tuli

### **How to Undo A Self-Hating Depression: Using Gestalt Therapy Principles of Figure/Ground Formation as an Agent of Change**

Elinor Greenberg

### **Sex & Brain And Gestalt Therapy**

Marta Helliesen

### **Social Location and Marginalization: Contextual Constraints on Contacting Possibilities**

Lynne Jacobs

### **Self in Body Relation**

Peter Philippson

### **Couples Therapy Revisited Two Become One and Then There Are None: From a Fusion Model to a Connection Model**

Robert Resnick and Rita Resnick

### **How Does Supervision Inform Our Practice? Presentation of a Supervision Research Project Using Video Data**

Christine Stevens

### **Gestalt Community Living: 50 Years of Continuity and Change in the Esalen Gestalt Community**

Gordon Wheeler and Nancy Lunney-Wheeler

### **Deconstructing Shame and Other Intense Bodily Feeling States**

Lee Zevy

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE: GESTALT THERAPY NOW





# Full Conference Schedule



## June 4 - FRIDAY

### PM

|             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1:30 - 2:30 | Lunch provided                     |
| 1:30 - 2:30 | Newcomers meeting - Lunch provided |
| 1:30 - 2:30 | Board Meeting - Lunch provided     |
| 2:30 - 4:30 | Workshops                          |

### **Cultivating Intimacy in the Shared Earth Community: Ecopsychology, Phenomenology, Buddhism, and Gestalt Therapy**

Will Adams

### **Changing Times, Changing Families – Exploring Stepfamily Situations**

Claire Bartram and Jon Blend

### **The Field of the “Field” (Invited Panel Presentation and Discussion)**

Dan Bloom, Moderator; Sylvia Crocker, Donna Orange, Gordon Wheeler

### **Intentional Spirituality: A Contemporary Phenomenological Perspective**

Philip Brownell

### **Between the Generations: Living Your Parent/Adult-Child Relationship in the Present**

Joan H Cole and Peter H Cole

### **Gestalt Therapy in Community Mental Health: Expanding the Boundaries of Gestalt Practice**

Sean Coyle and Adrienne Newman

### **Flying Without Wings: Life With Arnold Beisser, MD**

Liv Estrup

### **Freeforming a Co-Creative, Dynamic, Meditative Practice**

Peri Mackintosh

### **Good Moments in Gestalt Body Process Psychotherapy**

Barbara Jean Nagrant

|             |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:30 - 5:00 | Break                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5:00 - 6:00 | Process Groups                                                                                                                                        |
| 6:00 - 8:00 | Community Meeting                                                                                                                                     |
| 8:00 - 9:00 | Process Group Leaders Meeting check-in                                                                                                                |
| 8:00 - ???  | Dinner on your own .<br>The Irish Interest Group invites you to join them for dinner or anytime later in the evening at an Irish pub to be announced. |

## **Housing Options - Make your plans soon!**

- ♥ Register at the hotel before April 27th for the AAGT group rate (\$142 + tax)
- ♥ Need a hotel roommate? Contact Maria Kirchner: [Mariapkirchner@gmail.com](mailto:Mariapkirchner@gmail.com)
- ♥ Want alternative housing in Philadelphia? Contact Ellen Cohen: [whitewinde@comcast.net](mailto:whitewinde@comcast.net)



# Full Conference Schedule



## June 5 - SATURDAY

### AM

7:00 - 9:00

Breakfast Buffet and other morning activities

8:30 - 10:30

Workshops

**Gay Clients Seeking Meaningful Relational Contact: Scared of the Sacred** - Billy Desmond

**Opening to the World through the Lived Body: Relating Theory and Practice** - Robert Farrands

**Holy Holism! Is It Time for a Change?** - Charlie Bowman

**Gay Clients Seeking Meaningful Relational Contact: Scared of the Sacred** - Billy Desmond

**Practice, Embodiment and Gestalt Form** - Robert Farrands

**Is Mindfulness Just Gestalt Therapy by a Different Name? (Invited Panel)**

Eva Gold, Moderator; Brian Arnell, Victor Daniels, Iris Fodor, Steven Zahn

**A Gestalt Therapist Teaches Singing** - Susan Gregory

**Imposing Non-Judgmental Values: Paradoxes of Gestalt Ethics** - Eric Hoffman

**A Four-Step Gestalt Game: A New Egyptian Approach for Facilitating Therapeutic Change**

Refaat Mahfouz and Mohamed Taha

**Managing Conflict-Introducing the Concept of Contempt** - Joseph Melnick

**The Function of the Boundary Layers with Japanese People** - Noriyoshi Okada

**A Brief Introduction to Family Constellations for Gestaltists** - Carol Siederer

10:30 - 11:00

Break

11:00 - 1:00

Invitational Workshops

**The Seeds of Community: Optimism, Co-Creation, and the Cape Cod Model** - Carol Brockmon

**Embodiment as Continuity** - Michael Clemmens

**The Now-for-Next in Psychotherapy: Gestalt Therapy Explained through Clinical Examples**

Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb

**How to Teach Intersubjectivity** - Cornelia Muth

**Our Fifty-Five Year Journey with the Gestalt Model: Lessons Learned and Applied: A Conversation with**

**Sonia Nevis and Edwin Nevis** - Facilitated by David Henrich

**Pathways to Connectedness** - Erving Polster

**Video Demonstrations with Bob Resnick: A Contemporary Approach: Phenomenological, Dialogic, Field and Process Based** - Robert Resnick

**The Id of the Situation** - Jean-Marie Robine



# Full Conference Schedule



## June 5 - SATURDAY

### PM

|             |                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:00 - 2:00 | Lunch provided (Interest Groups)<br>Process group leaders check in lunch<br>Newcomers lunch                                         |
| 2:00 - 3:30 | Community Meeting                                                                                                                   |
| 3:30 - 4:30 | Richard Kitzler Memorial Gathering<br>Dan Bloom, Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb                                                          |
| 4:30 - 5:00 | Break                                                                                                                               |
| 5:00 - 6:00 | Annual Meeting (includes elections)                                                                                                 |
| 5:00        | Publications table close                                                                                                            |
| 6:00 - 7:30 | Process Groups                                                                                                                      |
| 7:30 - 8:00 | Free Time                                                                                                                           |
| 8:00 - ???  | Hors d'oeuvres<br>Dinner/Dance at the Philadelphia Maritime Museum<br>Silent and Live Auction - Proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund |

## June 6 - SUNDAY

|              |                                                        |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 - 9:00  | Breakfast Buffet and other morning activities          |
| 8:00 - 9:00  | Process Group Leaders Meeting - evaluation and closure |
| 9:00 - 11:00 | Workshops                                              |

**Ego, Anger, and Attachment: A New Way of Looking at and Working with Aggression in Gestalt Therapy**  
Frank-M. Staemmler

**Working with Children & Adolescents (Invited Panel Presentation and Discussion)**  
Jon Blend, Moderator; Ruella Frank, Neil Harris, Mark McConville, Bronagh Starrs, Denise Tervo

**A Fresh Look at Phenomenology in Husserl and Gestalt Therapy**  
Sylvia Fleming Crocker

**Dimensions of Dialogues: Their Forms and Uses**  
Victor Daniels

**Gestalt Therapy Training Integrating Buddhist Psychology and Mindfulness Methods**  
Eva Gold and Steve Zahm

**Escape from Your Internal Bondage--Change Your Introjected World: Loosening the Root of the Tongue**  
Seishi Harada

**A Phenomenology of Sexual Intrusion**  
Des Kennedy

**Ego, Anger, and Attachment: A New Way of Looking at and Working with Aggression in Gestalt Therapy**  
Frank-M. Staemmler

**If You Could Change Your Parents--You Could Change Yourself: Introjected Family Patterns and Birth Order Transferences**  
Anne Teachworth

|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Break                     |
| 11:30 - 1:00  | Closing Community Meeting |
| 2:30 - 4:00   | New Board Mtg. over lunch |



# Conference Information



## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT - HELP!!!

**Although the scholarship committee is pleased to have already BROKEN our records via 21 grants totaling more than \$15,000 USD, we have another \$8000 USD in outstanding requests.**

Please help by making donations; staging events to raise money [workshops, concerts, film sales, etc.] and by bringing items to auction off at the conference...and by any other creative ideas that occur to you! Thank you on behalf of the fund committee, the board and the grantees,

Bud Feder, Scholarship Fund Chairperson ([bfeder@comcast.net](mailto:bfeder@comcast.net))

### AAGT AUCTION

If you have items that you would like to contribute to the cause, or if you would like to serve on the Auction Committee and help to raise Scholarship money, or if you have questions, comments or suggestions, send an email to Eric Hoffman at [eeric1@comcast.net](mailto:eeric1@comcast.net).

## CALL FOR PROCESS GROUP LEADERS

PROCESS GROUPS are an integral part of our AAGT Conferences. They are a unique gestalt therapy approach to conferencing! Each group has two "leaders/facilitators" who encourage, stimulate, and support the conference participants to explore the unique meaning/value of the conference to them. We provide support, supervision and information through process group leaders meetings; it is exciting to find conference themes emerging at these meetings! Many people, once having taken the step of leading process groups do so conference after conference. We need experienced *and* less experienced volunteers. If you haven't led a process group before please consider doing so in Philadelphia! If you did so in the past please do so again! We definitely need your help!!

Please copy, fill out, and e-mail the application below to Jack Aylward at [JackatPCC@aol.com](mailto:JackatPCC@aol.com), or Perry Klepner at [perry302@aol.com](mailto:perry302@aol.com). Many thanks from the Process Group Committee: Jack Aylward, M'Lou Caring, Claire Asherson Bartram, Perry Klepner, Anne Leibig.

AAGT 2010 CONFERENCE: Continuity and Change: Gestalt Therapy Now  
June 1-6 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### 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:.....

# PAUL GOODMAN CHANGED MY LIFE

a film by Jonathan Lee



## About Paul Goodman

Born in New York City in 1911, Paul Goodman labored in obscurity as a writer and freelance intellectual until 1960 when the publication of *Growing Up Absurd* made him famous and a significant moral force in the Sixties.

*Social Critic & Philosopher of Education.* Grace Paley says in her interview that Paul Goodman "was not ahead of his time but in his time." A brilliant and imaginative social thinker, Goodman's "utopian essays and practical proposals" inspired the leaders of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Berkeley Free Speech Movement — as they inspired him. His *Compulsory Mis-education* and *Community of Scholars* were important texts for educational reform efforts in the 1960s and beyond.

*Rethinking Cities.* *Communitas*, co-written with his architect brother Percival Goodman and published in 1947, became a classic in community planning that is still in print and widely used in architecture and community planning courses.

*Gestalt Therapy.* *Gestalt Therapy* (1951), co-authored with Fritz Perls, launched a new school of psychotherapy that now flourishes world-wide, far from the Esalen Institute in California where it first attracted media attention.

*Gay Liberation Pioneer.* Paul Goodman's unabashed frankness about his bisexuality was costly to his career and reputation: he was never in a closet that he had to come out of — but it won him the admiration of some of the activists who created the modern gay rights movement.

*Pacifist.* Goodman's outspoken support for young Vietnam War draft resisters, along with Grace Paley, Noam Chomsky, Marc Raskin, Mitchell Goodman, and Dr. Benjamin Spock, earned him the FBI classification of "subversive homosexual" — and made him a beacon for young men facing conscription, including his own son.

*Poet.* Some of America's best-known poets and critics admired Paul Goodman's poetry: John Ashbery, Adrienne Rich, Hayden Carruth, Susan Sontag, and composer Ned Rorem set many of his poems to music.

Yet despite the remarkable achievements and unusual life of this 20th century man of letters, Paul Goodman has almost completely disappeared since his death at age 60 in 1972. Most of his books are out-of-print and people under fifty know nothing about this man "whose influence, if not name, is all around us," according to Noam Chomsky. Our film will introduce the life and work of this exemplary citizen-poet and free spirit as seen through the eyes of some of those who have said, "Paul Goodman changed my life." Perhaps he will change your life too!

## About the Film

*Paul Goodman Changed My Life* will be the first documentary about Paul Goodman, the late social critic, poet, philosopher of education, or, as he called himself, "man of letters in the old-fashioned sense." *Paul Goodman Changed My Life* will follow a biographical through-line and be structured around interviews with family, friends, peers, and activists from the peace, educational reform, and gay movements who today are found in Maine, Minnesota, Massachusetts, California, West Virginia, New York City, Vermont, Paris, and Catalonia, Spain. The interviews will be interwoven with archival footage of Goodman and major events in which he was involved and photos made available by his widow Sally.

Edmund White will read some of Paul Goodman's poetry and prose and other off-camera voices will relate anecdotes written by two of Goodman's closest friends, the late Harold Rosenberg and the late George Dennison. *Paul Goodman Changed My Life* will also include selections from Judith Malina's journals of 1947-1957 as recorded by Ms. Malina for the film.

European Association for Gestalt Therapy

# Lost in Transformation

- Changing Identities in a Changing World -

10th - EAGT conference  
09. - 12. September 2010 in Berlin

For more information and program details, visit us at [www.gestalt2010.eu](http://www.gestalt2010.eu)

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Vienna, February 2010

We, the German (DVG), Swiss (SVG) and Austrian (OEVG) National Organizations for Gestalt Therapy in the EAGT and the FS/IGT, an Austrian training institute, are busy organizing the third joint conference of the German-speaking countries (known as the D-A-CH-Tagungen) in honour of Paul Goodman's birthday centennial. It will be held in Vienna from November 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011. For details, please consult our website: [www.paulgoodmantagung.org](http://www.paulgoodmantagung.org)

With great pleasure we announce the screening of Jonathan Lee's brand-new documentary film, "**PAUL GOODMAN CHANGED MY LIFE**", during our conference.

**Jonathan Lee** not only generously offered to show his film in Vienna. Moreover, he has informed us about an essay contest and asked for our support in the following message:

"We are sponsoring a **PAUL GOODMAN ESSAY CONTEST** for writers 30 and younger with DISSENT magazine. The challenge is to write an essay addressing a political or social topic chosen by the writer but in the spirit of Paul Goodman's "utopian essays and practical proposals," examples of which, along with video clips from our film, are posted on the contest web-page. The winner will receive \$1000 and the essay will be published in DISSENT. If you can help us get out the word to young people and their professors, we very much want applicants outside of the US.

For information, click on [dissentmagazine.org](http://dissentmagazine.org) and you'll see the ad for the essay contest."

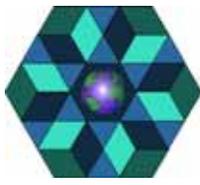
Jonathan Lee, director/producer  
PAUL GOODMAN CHANGED MY LIFE  
[www.paulgoodmanfilm.com](http://www.paulgoodmanfilm.com)

We also intend to support this project and ask you for your help in spreading the information amongst your colleagues and any other *young* persons who might be interested in participating. Since the deadline of the contest is in May, you have to act quickly! Thank you very much for your kind attention and cooperation.

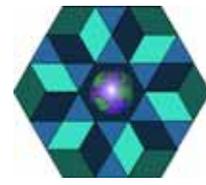
Yours truly,

Beatrix Wimmer, Vienna - Delegate of the Austrian Association for Gestalt Therapy (OEVG) in the EAGT  
Member of the conference - organizing team

Nancy Amendt-Lyon, Vienna  
President of the Austrian Association for Gestalt Therapy (OEVG) in the EAGT



# Regional News



Dear AAGT-Southwest Friends,

Please join us for the 15th annual AAGT-Southwest regional conference the weekend of October 1-3, 2010. We will return to one of our favorite venues -- the Asilomar Conference Grounds in beautiful Pacific Grove, California. Asilomar is on the coast, and close to Carmel, Big Sur, Monterey and Santa Cruz. The nearest airports are in Monterey and San Jose.

As usual we will begin at 4pm on Friday for check-in and topic selection. Our Saturday morning plenary will feature Todd Burley PhD for his expertise on "How Research and Neuroscience Inform Today's Gestalt Therapists." We'll have additional discussion groups on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, as well as plenty of time for sightseeing, bike riding, beach walking, swimming, or relaxing.

Asilomar is not only beautiful and rustic, but also very affordable. The following room rates are per person for two nights, including meals:

Single occupancy is \$335.52

Double occupancy is \$233.32

Our annual two-day Writers' Conference will be at Asilomar September 30th and October 1st. (If you plan to attend the Writers' Conference, please indicate on your housing form that you need accommodations for four nights.)

The one challenging aspect of having our conference at Asilomar is that we need to commit to an exact number of rooms and participants two months prior to our meeting. It would be extremely helpful to me if you register with me and Asilomar before July 1st. Please reply to this email if you are interested in attending. I will then email you the Asilomar housing form as an attached file. Please print the housing form and send directly to Asilomar. Finally, print this email, complete the following information, and mail a check or money order made out to AAGT-SW to:

Lynn Stadler

AAGT-SW Regional Contact Person

410 E. Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

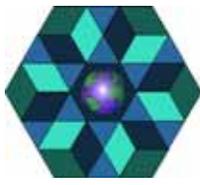
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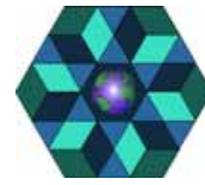
\_\_\_ \$60 for AAGT-Southwest Conference

\_\_\_ \$30 for Writers' Conference





# Regional News



**2nd AAGT Australia Regional Gathering  
Exploring The Spirit of Gestalt Therapy  
24th - 26th November 2010**

Gunnebah Retreat in the beautiful Tweed Valley (<http://www.gunnebah.com.au>)

- Two nights accommodation & All meals
- 5 Workshops and registration - \$300
- Register at <http://www.gestalt.org.au> click "events" or
- Send email to [keiv@westnet.com.au](mailto:keiv@westnet.com.au) with name and contact details)

---

The dominant discourse within the West is imbued with the ethos of competition which can evoke an 'all or nothing' approach to life experiences. From this dualistic perspective most of our contact is more ruptured than encountered and/or engaged. If it's 'all or nothing' we can easily end up loving nothing. At this gathering we will explore Gestalt's unique Field based-position which is both in opposition and contact with this dominant discourse. We will explore the experiential and theoretical aspects of:

I-Thou Inter-connection of the Field The Narrow Ridge Between  
Sitting with Not Knowing The Fertile Void Either/or vs Both  
Co-Creation Ambiguity Contact with Difference Spiritual Intrajects  
Awareness & Wholeness

Join us for this exciting and nurturing exploration. If you wish to present a workshop contact Kerry Co-ordinator; Kerry Shipman 0266 57 2702 0458 265 421 [keiv@westnet.com.au](mailto:keiv@westnet.com.au)

## AAGT SOUTHEAST REGION

### MAKE PLANS FOR THE 2010 USA SOUTH EAST REGION CONFERENCE

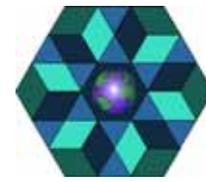
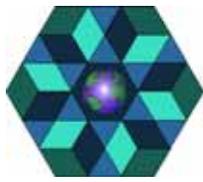
At this time we are beginning to plan for the next AAGT-South East regional conference held October 15th-17th,2010 at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina. Please let me know any topics you would like to see presented as well as if you might be interested in presenting a workshop.

I appreciate the time you take to send me your ideas.

I hope to see you at AAGT's 2010 Philadelphia Conference!

Anne Leibig

AAGT-SE Regional Contact Person



## An Update From PWIG (Playful Writing Interest Group)

By Tine van Wijk

By writing in a playful way you can enter into a process that shows you the meaning of what is happening in your life. Only thinking or/and feeling is not enough. If you want to grow you need to do something. Play for example, or write, or draw, or sing, or dance, or walk, or go travelling. As long as you get into motion you will have new experiences that will show you the next step and the next on the road to becoming a complete person.

As Gestalt people we know that we are coherent wholes. Only a head without the body is of no use. But a head as part of the whole body is a master or a director that can let the voice of your soul out. And when your soul is allowed to come out of the closet you will be recognized as a writer, a dancer, a singer, a painter, a sculptor, an actor, a lover or whoever you are. In other words you will grow and be boss in your own life.

Writing is a perfect way to communicate. We can choose our own moment for expressing our thoughts, feelings, ideas, expectations, hopes. I as a writer and you as a reader, I as a reader and you as a writer can explore if we can communicate and connect by playful writing.

I can express what touches me hoping that you will feel interested and write what touches you. It is about feeling or not feeling. About being moved or not. Like this we will be able to connect to our own process and write our own small or big life stories.

**Questions to chew on:** Existential questions cannot be answered with a simple Yes or No. They are meant to play with, to chew on, to take seriously, to write about, to be discussed with yourself or with someone else. Therefore I regularly give on the PWI-

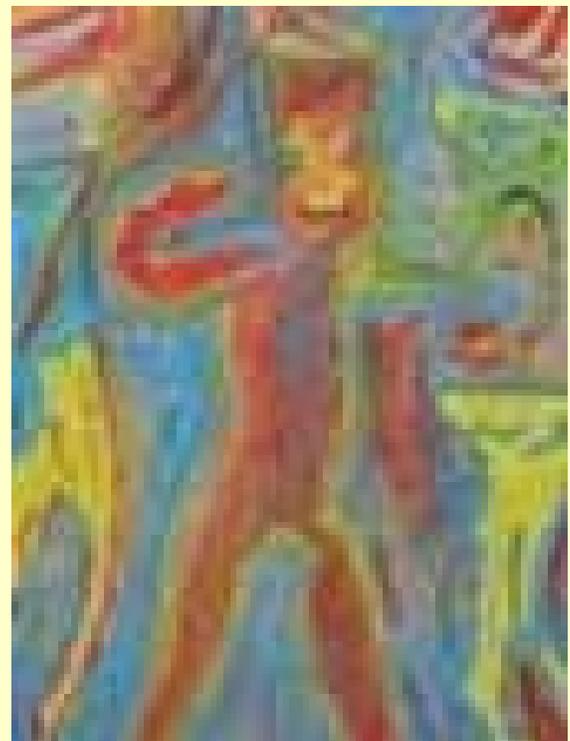
GAAGT blog questions that can inspire and stimulate you. Some examples:

- what are my words that long to be written?
- do I realize the sun is shining?
- what are my basic needs?
- am I in the same boat?
- am I a writer?

Chewing on one question at the time can guide you to your own answer, that no one else can give. Only you know what your answer is, because only you are connected to your own Source filled with your own wisdom.

If you are interested, please click on: [www.schrijfdeonderstroom.typepad.com/pwigaagt](http://www.schrijfdeonderstroom.typepad.com/pwigaagt) The design you will see is the skyline of Philadelphia, to feel closer to the conference and all those colleagues working so hard to connect us all.

## How about a PWIG? Play Interest Group?



**Are you an AAGT Organizational Member?  
Post your organizational update, training invite or publication here!  
Free in the AAGT Newsletter!**

## GATLA

Gestalt Associates Training Los Angeles [www.gatla.org](http://www.gatla.org)

### 39<sup>th</sup> Annual European Summer Residential Training Programs



***GATLA is delighted to announce our 39<sup>th</sup> Annual European Summer Residential Training Programs*** at a spectacular four star 14th Century Teutonic Castle in the Lake District of Poland. This incredible castle, built by Teutonic knights, has had many lives. It was last used in the 1950's and '60's as a women's prison. In 2001 a hotel group bought the decaying ruins and after 4 years of painstaking restoration, the castle has been reborn as a magnificent 4 star hotel and conference center.

#### ***Couples Therapy Training Workshop: July 4 - 10, 2010 with Bob and Rita Resnick***

A cutting edge Couples Therapy Training Program - the distillation of the Resnicks' 40 years of focusing on couples from a Gestalt Therapy perspective. The Resnick approach is a field sensitive and process model that is both powerful and unique. Among other topics, the training will address: How to be connected to another and maintain a self... and the nexus of most couple's issues: dealing with differences. Live demonstrations of the Resnicks' working with couples, opportunity for participants to practice the model, small groups to process personal reactions are additional components of this informative, program

#### ***Gestalt Therapy Training Workshop: July 4 - 10, 2010 (In SPANISH) with Todd Burley***

A Gestalt Therapy workshop in Spanish (led by Todd Burley, Ph.D., bilingual GATLA core trainer) is an experiment in reaching out to the huge numbers of Spanish speaking Gestalt Therapists worldwide.

#### ***Gestalt Therapy Training Workshop: July 11 - 23, 2010 with Burley, Resnicks & Guest Faculty***

Our benchmark 12-day Gestalt Therapy workshop has five levels of training – Basic, Advanced, Advanced Intensive, Clinical Practicum and Master Class. Lower group members have the option of daily individual therapy with a Clinical Practicum or Master Class participant with faculty, group leaders or distinguished Gestalt Visitors as in vivo supervisors. We have 80-100 participants from 25 different countries and an international staff of Trainers and Group Leaders from 8-10 different countries. Importantly, our participant's return rate to this program is more than 80%. Participants vote with their feet. The program includes cutting edge theory and training, individual therapy and hands on supervision, trios and quartets skill practice sessions, evening optional professional programs plus dancing, singing, drinking wine under the stars, arguing theory, telling jokes and more. Come learn, laugh and play with a warm and welcoming international Gestalt community.

The food is wonderful, facilities and rooms great and the jewel in the crown is a recently enclosed magnificent 900 square meter (9,000 square foot) interior courtyard – where we will be having dinner, concerts and occasional medieval fairs plus outdoor BBQ's. The castle is located in the town of Ryn, situated on a small isthmus of land between two beautiful lakes. All outdoor land and water sports are there plus billiards, archery, three lane bowling alley, gym, laser rifle shooting range, spa and beautiful indoor pool and more. Lastly, this 800 year old castle has it's own ghost. And, there are reports that the ghost of Fritz may also visit us. Check this place out (English, German and Polish) at: [www.zamekryn.pl](http://www.zamekryn.pl) Also check GATLA at: [www.gatla.org](http://www.gatla.org)

#### **GISC is pleased to announce the January 2010 release of: MENDING THE WORLD - Social Healing Interventions by Gestalt Practitioners Worldwide. Edi- tors: Joseph Melnick & Edwin C. Nevis.**

This book provides a blueprint for making a difference in the intractable social issues that exist today. It presents the compelling drama of thirteen stories of people on the firing lines in countries in Africa, Europe, Scandinavia, as well as Brazil, Cambodia, North of Ireland, and the USA. The cases involve diverse real world issues, such as AIDS reduction, poverty, political conflict, natural disasters, and dilemmas in supporting the aged. The stories are framed by the editors with theory and historical data, and offer the hope of effective change using Gestalt principles and methods. In these complex issues, you need unique skills to bring people together to work toward a common solution, and to empower yourself to influence people with positional power. Mending the World shows how use of these skills leads to high-impact outcomes. Price \$25.00. To purchase Mending the World, please call GISC at 508-349-7900 or write to [office@gisc.org](mailto:office@gisc.org). Mending the World is a Gestalt International Study Center Publication.

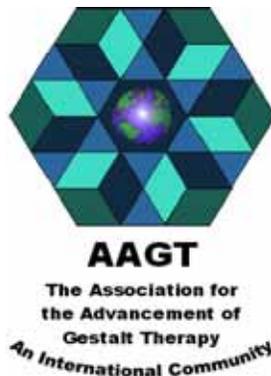
**Appalachian Gestalt Training Institute - 2010 Spring Newsletter.** Spring is here! The crocuses are open in front of my house and I have heard the birds singing. Personal Growth: We are teaming up with the Cincinnati Gestalt Institute to offer a Men's Personal Growth Weekend in North Carolina, April 23-25. See our website. Our fall conference is modeled on the larger international meeting. AAGT-South East USA Regional Conference will be held the third weekend in October 15th-17th at Warren Wilson College, in the Asheville area. Moving: The Gentle Bio-Energetics Institute has sold the lovely house we have used for training and the October AAGT-SE-USA conference. We have moved with them to their new office location: 1011 Tunnel Rd, Suite 240, Asheville, NC 28805. As our partner, the Gentle Bio-Energetics Institute offers us a non-profit educational status and a place to be. Anne Leibig, Appalachian Gestalt Training Institute — <http://www.wwww.agti.org>

**Gestalt Institute of New Orleans' REDECISION THERAPY WORKSHOPS.** March 27th (Saturday) & March 28th (Sunday). Anne Teachworth, Director. All our programs are open to the general public for personal development for individuals, couples, families or friends. Redecision Therapy Workshops - March 27th (Saturday) & March 28th (Sunday). Led by Phyllis Jenkins, LMFT, from San Francisco, President, Redecision Therapy Assn. Worldwide, Pacific Region Representative of USATAA. Saturday, March 27 10-5: "Change Your Mind & Change Your Life" - Redecision Therapy Theory and Workshop; Sunday - March 28th, 10am to 5pm: "A New Plan for Couples" - Redecision Therapy & Psychogenetics. Location: Gestalt Institute, 1539 Metairie Road, Metairie 70005. Cost: \$125 each day or \$200 for the weekend (prepaid) Call 504 828 2267. To pre-register, you may pay at <http://www.teachworth.com> through Paypal, or mail your check to Gestalt Institute at the above address.

**Introduction to Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy with Ruella Frank, Ph.D.** February 25th - 27th, 2011, New York City. Fee: \$300, \$250 for students. Further information and to register contact Ruella Frank at [ruella-frank@nyc.rr.com](mailto:ruella-frank@nyc.rr.com), <http://www.somaticstudies.com> Ongoing nonverbal interactions with our primary caregivers during the first year of life set a relational foundation that is apparent both in the everyday life of the adult and in psychotherapy. Even though our adult postural attitudes, gestures, gait and breathing patterns have changed over time, the foundations established in our first year remain readily observable and available. Attending to these patterns within psychotherapy is especially powerful. During this workshop, participants learn how their relational styles originated through affective/movement patterns within the infant/caregiver dyad. Through movement, participants will explore these intrinsic yet unaware primary patterns which are part of present experiences and influence daily life. We then apply this understanding to the here-and-now of the client/therapist dyad. This workshop is open to psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, infant educators, mental health counselors, as well as movement therapists/educators who wish to better understand the relationship between psychological experience and physical expression. Ruella Frank, Ph.D., has been exploring early infant movements and their relationship to the adult since the mid-1970s. She brings many years of experience to her work as a gestalt psychotherapist – as a professional dancer, yoga practitioner/teacher, student of several movement theories and therapies, and student of Laura Perls, co-founder of gestalt therapy. Ruella is founder and director of the Center for Somatic Studies, faculty at Gestalt Associates for Psychotherapy and the New York Institute for Gestalt therapy, and also teaches throughout the United States, Europe and Mexico. She is author of articles and chapters in various publications, as well as the book *Body of Awareness: A Somatic and Developmental Approach to Psychotherapy*, available in five languages. Her new book with co-author and psychoanalyst Frances LaBarre, *The First Year and the Rest of Your Life: Movement, Development and Psychotherapeutic Change*, is to be published by Routledge Press and will be available Fall 2010.

**Gestalt Writer's Group in Indianapolis.** This workshop will be for writers of all persuasions: poetry, prose, fiction, nonfiction, professional, journalistic ... you name it! The caveat is that it is writing to be shared with others and not journal writing designed to be private. The workshop will be held as an all-day Saturday and Sunday morning event – a total of 9 hours eligible for CE credit – and we will decide the dates as a group, via e-mail, after I have the list of those interested. The group will be limited to 10 participants and following the workshop we may choose to continue as a support group for our writing. The goal is to come to cherish your written work shared in the world of the other! Please contact me before May 1<sup>st</sup> if you are interested, preferably by e-mail! Charlie Bowman, Indianapolis Gestalt Institute, [charlie@bowmancounseling.com](mailto:charlie@bowmancounseling.com), 317-670-9202.

**Gestalt Therapy: A Guide to Contemporary Practice**, Philip Brownell, MDiv, PsyD. This scholarly, contemporary reference book for mental health professionals seamlessly blends the philosophical underpinnings of gestalt therapy (GT) with practical application. Providing in-depth discussions and provocative insights, Philip Brownell gets to the core of GT—its history, its theoretical constructs, and its therapeutic processes. In addition to addressing the philosophy and processes of the therapy, the book provides a gestalt therapy approach to diagnosis, case conceptualization, and case management. Brownell updates the foundational theories of gestalt therapy by relating them to current findings in neuroscience as well as similar constructs in other major therapeutic modalities, such as cognitive behavioral and psychoanalytic therapies. The book also contains practical guidance on training, certification, and continuing education issues relevant to practicing therapists. **Availability:** This book can be purchased online at Springer Publishing ([http://www.springerpub.com/prod.aspx?prod\\_id=04540](http://www.springerpub.com/prod.aspx?prod_id=04540)) or at Amazon.com.



## AAGT Membership Application

In accordance with AAGT's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws, the purpose of AAGT is to support the professional and personal associating and advancing of persons interested in participating in a forum committed to the preservation and advancement of the philosophy, theory, practice, and research of gestalt therapy and its various applications.

*In furtherance of this purpose, AAGT shall encourage the development and application of principles and practices in the organization that are consistent with the following tenets:*

**That an organization can be created**, rather than imposed, and that it will grow out of our contacting; and

**That a structure will emerge** in response to our shared needs, interests and concerns; and

**That by believing in the unity of theory and practice**, an organization that so creates itself, is itself an experiment, an ongoing organic process of gestalt formation and destruction, in which old forms are destroyed and new figures emerge through contact that is bright and lively, energetic, graceful and fluid; and

**That such an organization provides the ground** for the enrichment, articulation and support of the constantly emerging figure that is Gestalt Therapy!

With these tenets as ground, we welcome as figure your **APPLICATION** to become a member of AAGT.

Membership entitles you to a listing in the AAGT Directory, reduced conference fees, opportunities to contribute to the gestalt community through our Service Exchange Program (SEP) and access to AAGT's Listserv.

### Membership Dues for 2009-2010

**Supporting Members \$150.00 or more, your contribution to advancing Gestalt Therapy** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Full-Time Professionals who have been Members more than one year \$100.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**New (first year) Professional Members \$50.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Retirees and Full-Time Student Members \$25.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Organizational Membership for Training Programs New is \$100.00, \$150.00 thereafter** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship Fund Donation – your contribution to those less-able to participate** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Information** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title, Degree or Prefix \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) : Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options

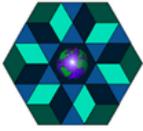
To PAY ON-LINE go to: <http://www.aagt.org>

**TO PAY BY CHECK:** Checks must be drawn on U.S. banks, made payable to AAGT. Mail check with this form to: Adam Weitz, AAGT Administrator, 31 Union Square West #10D, New York, NY 10003 USA or fax to Adam Weitz in the USA at 212-202-3974

**TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD** Visa and MasterCard only. Fax or Mail to Adam Weitz at the above address

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**AAGT** An International Community

Charlie Bowman, Communications Director  
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**Join AAGT or Register for the 2010 Conference Today  
at [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org) !!!**

## YOUR AAGT NEWSLETTER IS HERE!

Publications Editor:  
Marcy Stern

Communications Director:  
Charlie Bowman

### Publication Guidelines:

Articles accepted between 500 and 1500 words. Content relates to Gestalt therapy, AAGT and the creativity and interest of the membership. Letters to the Editor should be succinct and to the point. All material submitted remains the property of the Newsletter staff. Deadlines are final. Style can be informal, but should be good writing. All material is subject to editing to fit the parameters and needs of any given issue of the Newsletter.

The content herein represents the opinions of contributing authors and not the opinion, policies or procedures of AAGT unless otherwise specified.

**Let Us Get To Know You!**