

# AAGT

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy  
*An International Community*



January 2010



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***News for AAGT Members!***

**Continuity and Change:  
Gestalt Therapy Now**  
AAGT 10th International Conference!  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA  
**June 1 - 6, 2010**

**Participants from 16 Countries Already Registered!**

**Register before February 1 and save \$100**

**Food! Dancing! Music! Fun!**

**SPECIAL CONFERENCE EDITION!**





January is the top of the New Year from which we can stare down the calendar to see what is quickly coming upon us: our June Biennial conference in Philadelphia. Our 2008 conference in Manchester, UK, seems just like yesterday, or so the cliché goes, but to those who have been working for so many months in preparation for

June, I doubt that this seems so.

Cathy Gray and Burt Lazarin are Co-conveners of our June conference and their report about it appears in this newsletter. One and all: register now to take advantage of the early registration rate. The conference will be stupendous. Take a look at the pre-conference and conference presentations listed in this Newsletter. This conference will be representative of the widest world of gestalt therapy. You will receive lots of information about it in this newsletter and in the column by Cathy Gray, our Vice-president and soon-to-be President.

But our meeting in June is not only a conference. We will gather in our familiar – and remarkable—community meetings where we will discuss matters of concern to us as a community. We will be holding our annual general membership meeting.

Our annual general membership meeting is where we transact the central business of our organization and where we have elections of officers. I will pass the gavel of presidential office to Cathy Gray, who was elected by us in Manchester. We will elect other officers. If you are interested in standing for office, you can indicate your intention now on our online members list or by contacting our Elections Committee. Or you can simply be nominated at the annual meeting this June. The Elections Committee is also our candidate search committee, so if you are interested in helping us facilitate the elections process, contact the chair of this committee, Bud Feder, [bfeder@comcast.com](mailto:bfeder@comcast.com), and join the committee.

This general membership meeting is also where we discuss anything of relevance to us as an organization and community. For example, we will consider new by-laws that will change the policy and purposes of AAGT, an international community. Read further in the Newsletter and you will

see the beginnings of the agenda for this meeting. It is now time for you to consider whether you have anything to add to the agenda. If you do, you must notify the membership no less than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting for the topic to be discussed and acted upon at the meeting. But of course anything at all can be put on the agenda at any time and discussed at the meeting. Please consult our by-laws on the website, [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org), if you have any concerns about this.

As you know, we always make an eagerly anticipated announcement at our biennial conference—the location of our NEXT CONFERENCE. It is time for all of us to consider where our 2012 event will be held. Give it some thought.

I turn my attention from our June conference and to what is happening now and most recently in our world. Our regional contact persons have been busy in our local communities listening to our members. I am happy to point out to you that there is so much excitement in our regions that we seem unable wait for the June conference. We've been having regional conferences in unprecedented numbers with unparalleled attendance. This Newsletter reports on them.

As a Northeast United States local I hope I can be forgiven for my local pride and focus on just one of our regions. This past November, AAGT, an international community co-sponsored a successful event along with the local New York City gestalt therapy institutes, each of them also organizational members. And this January 23, there will be a follow-up event that will be the first AAGT/NE Regional Conference, "Together Again for the First Time: Gestalt Therapy and Intersubjective Systems Psychoanalysis" Gestalt therapist Lynne Jacobs and psychoanalyst Donna Orange will be lead discussants. The event is sold out as of this writing. Gestalt therapists and psychoanalysts are attending.

This Newsletter itself is developing into a true communications vehicle. Read on and you will see what our organizational members and members are doing. And let me point you further to our website, [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org). It, too, is developing. You will very soon see a new addition to it – a membership directory.

So once again my newsletter greeting is packed with my enthusiasm about what is happening in AAGT, an international community: Our truly international biennial conference, our community meetings, our annual meetings, our up-coming

## Our Executive Council & Additional Board Officers

President:	Dan Bloom	<a href="mailto:dan@djbloom.com">dan@djbloom.com</a>
Vice-President	Cathy Gray	<a href="mailto:cathybgray@gmail.com">cathybgray@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Sarah Fallon	<a href="mailto:fallonsaj@yahoo.co.uk">fallonsaj@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Peter Cole	<a href="mailto:peterhayscole@hotmail.com">peterhayscole@hotmail.com</a>
Archivist/Continuing Education Officer:	Ansel Woldt	<a href="mailto:nanselw@aol.com">nanselw@aol.com</a>
Communication Director	Charlie Bowman	<a href="mailto:aagtone@gmail.com">aagtone@gmail.com</a>
Membership Chair	Robert de Vos	<a href="mailto:rhdevos@alice.nl">rhdevos@alice.nl</a>
RCP Coordinator	Brian O'Neill	<a href="mailto:boneill@uow.edu.au">boneill@uow.edu.au</a>
Organizational Representatives	Bud Feder	<a href="mailto:bfeder@comcast.net">bfeder@comcast.net</a>
	Morgan Goodlander	<a href="mailto:gestaltinstitute@yahoo.com">gestaltinstitute@yahoo.com</a>
Interest Group Coordinator	Michael D.-Chastain	<a href="mailto:mhdchastain@yahoo.com">mhdchastain@yahoo.com</a>

agenda items, community meeting, our busy regions, activities of members, this newsletter, our website. But I end with sad news

Marilyn Rossannes-Berrett has died. Marilyn was a member of the gestalt therapy community since 1965, one of the original gestalt therapists trained by Fritz Perls, a signatory of the corporate charter of The New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy, and importantly, the founder of The Gestalt Center of New York. Marilyn trained many gestalt therapists. Her influence is immeasurable. More information about Marilyn will appear in the next issue of our Newsletter.

Best wishes to all of you.

*Dan*

### **2010: A New Decade Begins** by Cathy Gray, President Elect

Much of what has happened in this last decade we could not have envisioned at the outset. Nor can we know today the many events that will touch our lives in this new decade.

As I look ahead to 2010, AAGT and our associating, I am energized and excited about what we will create together. I know there will be many events that will touch our lives that we can not envision today. What tempts the uncertainty and heightens the anticipation is that we are together as the decade unfolds.

In six short months we will be in Philadelphia. The 2010 AAGT Biennial Conference is bringing together an exciting array of workshop presenters and speakers reflecting Gestalt Therapy thinking worldwide. You will find details in the reports on conference activities, the listings of plenary presentations, pre-conference workshops, invited and peer reviewed presentations and many

other opportunities.

**Don't miss the January 31st deadline for the greatest savings on registration fees. Also be sure to register at the hotel. The rates are \$142 for both single and double rooms. This is a phenomenal price for Philadelphia hotels, especially for those of this quality and located near all the places of interest to visitors.**

If you want to avoid the cost of the hotel completely, Ellen Cohen will match you with a Philadelphia Gestalt therapist who has volunteered to host you in their home. If you need additional help financially to be able to attend the conference, be sure and contact Bud Feder. He and the Financial Aid committee will do their very best to meet your needs. You will find their reports also in these pages.

There are still many ways to participate in the life of the conference. An important way is to be a process group leader. Perry Klepner and Jack Aylward will train you and support you throughout the process. See their note in this newsletter and contact them today. If you want to volunteer for some other task, just contact Burt Lazarin or me and we will put you to work.

Coming together in a physical space, in addition to our contact in the virtual space of the internet, is important. What will emerge as we meet, share ideas and lives, laugh, celebrate and learn will continue the creation of our association. Until I see you in Philadelphia or speak with you over the internet Happy New Year to each of you.

I look forward to our times together,

*Cathy*





# 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)

Brian O'Neil (Australia)

Philip Brownell (Bermuda)

Wen Chun Cho (Taiwan)

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)

Fiona Coffey (UK)

Sean Gaffney (Ireland)

Robert Kolodny (USA)

Mark Magerman (USA)

Talia Levine-Bar Joseph (Israel)

Jon Blend (UK)

Will Adams (USA)



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



# Pre-Conference Workshops



Pre-Conference Workshops	Facilitators
Women And Aggression	Ann Bowman, Judy Graham, and Gail Feinstein
Experiential Gestalt Group	Ansel Woldt
Gestalt Therapy Group Process Marathon	Bud Feder and Jack Aylward
A Gestalt View Of Power And "Its" Field: And What We Can Do About It	Carl Hodges and Toni Gilligan
Continuity And Change: Preparing Ourselves For The Conference Through Experiments In Reflective Writing	Christine Stevens
I-Thou as Transcultural Dialogue in Groups	Cornelia Muth
Contacting Through Music	Gary Gray
How Neuroscience Validates Gestalt	Ginny McIntosh
Creativity, Process And Experiment	Lee Zevy
A Painless Primer On Research: How To Help The Gestalt World Develop An Evidence Base	Philip Brownell
Elements In The Nature Of Dialogue	Philip Lichtenberg
The Secret Language Of Intimacy	Robert Lee
Couples Therapy Revisited: Two Become One And Then There Are None	Robert Resnick and Rita Resnick
Exploring Nonverbal Processes Within Therapy: A Developmental Perspective	Ruella Frank
A Dramatic Approach To Gestalt Dreamwork	Sylvia Crocker
Constellations And Gestalt: A Deeper Look	Ty Francis, Gordon Wheeler, Deborah Ullman, and Nancy Lunney-Wheeler

## Where, oh where will A A G T be in 2012?

Have you a suggestion? The A A G T Conference is a major vehicle in our associating and advancing Gestalt therapy! To be considered, a location must have an adequate venue, easy access for international traveler's and a Gestalt community willing to work on the conference committee. Send your recommendations to Cathy ([cathybgray@gmail.com](mailto:cathybgray@gmail.com)), Burt ([BRlaz@aol.com](mailto:BRlaz@aol.com)), or Dan Bloom ([Dan@djbloom.com](mailto:Dan@djbloom.com)).



# Conference Presentations



<b>Opening Event</b>	<b>Anna Bacik, John Bennett, Rodney Cole, Marta Helliesen, Facilitators</b>
<b>Keynote Panel Presentation</b>	<b>Lynne Jacobs, Myriam Munoz, Frank-M. Staemmler, Gordon Wheeler (Moderator)</b>
<b>Honoring Richard Kitzler</b>	<b>Dan Bloom &amp; Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb</b>
<b>Honoring Philip Lichtenberg</b>	<b>Erving Polster, Jean-Marie Robine, Mary Lou Schack</b>
<b>Invited Workshops</b>	<b>Presenters (In Alphabetical Order)</b>
The Seeds of Community: Optimism , Co-Creation and the Cape Cod Model	Carol Brockmon
How to Teach Intersubjectivity	Cornelia Muth
Pathways to Connectedness	Erving Polster
The Id of the Situation	Jean-Marie Robine
The Now-for-Next in Gestalt Therapy with Couples	Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb
Embodiment as Continuity	Michael Clemmens
Video Demonstrations with Bob Resnick: A Contemporary Approach: Phenomenological, Dialogic, Field and Process Based	Robert Resnick
Our Fifty-Five Year Journey with the Gestalt Model: Lessons Learned and Applied: A Conversation with Sonia Nevis and Edwin Nevis	Sonia Nevis, Edwin Nevis, David Henrich, Facilitator
<b>Panel Presentations</b>	<b>Participants (In Alphabetical Order)</b>
Is Mindfulness Just Gestalt Therapy by a Different Name?	Brian Arnell, Steve Zahn, Victor Daniels, Iris Fodor, Eva Gold, Moderator
Gestalt: Sustainability of Our Global Environment	Bruce Aaron, Gail Feinstein, Marilyn Myles, Kailish Tuli, Will Adams, Billy Desmond, Moderator
Gestalt Philosophy of Being—Applications for Organizations	Fiona Coffey, Sean Gaffney, Robert Kolodny, Mark Magerman, Talia Levine Bar-Yoseph, Moderator
Working with Children and Adolescents	Ruella Frank, Neil Harris, Mark McConville, Denise Tervo, Bronagh Starrs, Jon Blend, Moderator
The Field of the "Field"	Sylvia Crocker, Brian O'Neill, Donna Orange, Gordon Wheeler, Dan Bloom, Moderator
Evidenced Based Movement, Research and the Regulation of Gestalt Therapy	Wen Chun Cho, Christine Stevens, Philip Brownell, Moderator



# Conference Presentations



Peer Reviewed Workshops	Presenters (In Alphabetical Order)
If You Could Change Your Parents....You Could Change Yourself - Introjected Family Patterns And Birth Order Transferences	Anne Teachworth
5 Levels of Experiential Interventions to Enhance Gestalt Group Work	Ansel Woldt
Good Moments In Gestalt Body Process Psychotherapy	Barbara Jean Nagrant
Two-You Work – The Same As Gestalt Two-Chair Technique Only Different	Bea Mackay
Gay Clients Seeking Meaningful Relational Contact: Scared Of The Sacred	Billy Desmond
A Brief Introduction To Family Constellations For Gestaltists	Carol Siederer
Holy Holism! Is It Time For A Change?	Charlie Bowman
How Does Supervision Inform Our Practice? Presentation Of A Supervision Research Project Using Video Data	Christine Stevens
Changing Times, Changing Families – Exploring Stepfamily Situations	Claire Bartram
Chasing Rainbows: Ethics in Gestalt Therapy – External Ethics, Foundational Ethics -- and the “Rainbow,” Emergent Ethos	Dan Bloom
The New Evolutionary Psychology: A Gestalt Perspective	Deborah Ullman, Gordon Wheeler
A Phenomenology Of Sexual Intrusion	Des Kennedy
How To Undo A Self-Hating Depression: Using Gestalt Therapy Principles Of Figure/Ground Formation As An Agent Of Change	Elinor Greenberg
Imposing Non-Judgmental Values: Paradoxes Of Gestalt Ethics	Eric Hoffman
Gestalt Therapy Training Integrating Buddhist Psychology And Mindfulness Methods	Eva Gold Steve Zahm
Ego, Anger, And Attachment: A New Way Of Looking At And Working With Aggression In Gestalt Therapy	Frank-M. Staemmler
From Abandonment To Embodiment And Beyond	Gail Feinstein
Gestalt Community Living: 50 Years Of Continuity And Change In The Esalen Gestalt Community	Gordon Wheeler, Nancy Lunney-Wheeler



# Conference Presentations



Peer Reviewed Workshops (Continued)	Presenters (In Alphabetical Order)
Between The Generations: Living Your Parent/Adult-Child Relationship In The Present	Joan H Cole, Peter H Cole
A Critical Exploration Of The Integration Of Buddhist Mindfulness Techniques In Gestalt Therapy	John L. Bennett
Tuning In and Tuning Out: Exploring Contact and Withdrawal through Music- Making in Gestalt Therapy	Jon Blend
Managing Conflict-Introducing The Concept Of Contempt	Joseph Melnick
Eastern Wisdom Can Empower Western Psychotherapies	Kailash Tuli
Developing Mutuality: The Techniques Of Relational Gestalt Therapy	Ken Meyer
Working With Men Who Are Gay From A Process Based Gestalt Perspective	Kevin McCann
Deconstructing Shame And Other Intense Bodily Feeling States	Lee Zevy
Flying Without Wings: Life With Arnold Beisser, MD	Liv Estrup
How Does Gestalt Theory Inform The Changing Face Of Researcher Identity? An Exploration Of Gestalt Theory Within The Context Of Research, Singing, Pedagogy & Music Education	Liz Mellor, David Tune
Social Location And Marginalization: Contextual Constraints On Contacting Possibilities	Lynne Jacobs
Time Travel: Healing The Inner Adult	Marcy Stern, Deborah Kaufman
Creating Exact Moments of Healing	Mariah Fenton Gladis
Adolescent Phenomenology and the Intimate Witness	Marlene Moss Blumenthal, Mark McConville
Sex & Brain And Gestalt Therapy	Marta Helliesen
Dialogue From The Classroom To The Boardroom: An Approach For Human Development	Mary Grace Neville Richard Hancock
The Function Of The Boundary Layers With Japanese People	Noriyoshi Okada





# Conference Presentations



Peer Reviewed Workshops (Continued)	Presenters (In Alphabetical Order)
Freeforming a Co-Creative, Dynamic, Meditative Practice	Peri Mackintosh
Self In Body Relation	Peter Philippon
Intentional Spirituality: A Contemporary Phenomenological Perspective	Philip Brownell
Our Internal Critic, And The Cult Of Individualism	Robert Lee
Couples Therapy Revisited: Two Become One And Then There Are None. From A Fusion Model To A Connection Model	Robert Resnick, Rita Resnick
Opening To The World Through The Lived Body: Relating Theory And Practice	Robert Farrands
A Four-Step Gestalt Game: A New Egyptian Approach for Facilitating Therapeutic Change	Refaat Mahfouz before Mohamed Taha
Discovering Embodied History Within Postural Pattern: A Relational Perspective	Ruella Frank
Gestalt Therapy In Community Mental Health: Expanding The Boundaries Of Gestalt Practice	Sean Coyle, Adrienne Newman
Escape From Your Internal Bondage--Change Your Introjected World: Loosening The Root Of The Tongue	Seishi Harada
A Gestalt Therapist Teaches Singing	Susan Gregory
A "Fresh Look At Phenomenology In Husserl And Gestalt Therapy	Sylvia Fleming Crocker
Dimensions Of Dialogues: Their Forms And Uses	Victor Daniels
Cultivating Intimacy In The Shared Earth Community: Ecopsychology, Phenomenology, Buddhism and Gestalt Therapy	Will Adams

## Housing Options

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

**Make your plans soon!**



# Conference News



## **ANYONE CAN BE A SPONSOR OF THE AAGT CONFERENCE**

The cost of sponsorship is \$250 and the benefits are many:

- ♥ your name on the 2010 Conference Website
- ♥ a link to your organization's or your personal website
- ♥ a table 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
- ♥ the knowledge that you have helped to support AAGT and the 2010 Conference

To be a sponsor of the 2010 AAGT Biennial Conference simply send your check to:

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

Please include your name or that of your organization as you want it listed. If you wish to have your logo and link to your organization's website on the Conference website, please include:

- the URL for your webpage
- the logo in either a jpg or gif format of the logo
- if the logo is on your web site, we can "grab" it off the internet

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## **THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS AIMING HIGH...AND NEEDS YOU!**

Already this time the requests for grants from the scholarship fund have reached over \$15,000 USD...and requests are still coming in!!! By comparison in 2008 in Manchester we granted a total of \$12000 USD. At the present time we have about \$10,000 in the fund and though I am confident we will raise at least another \$5000 USD by the end of the conference through pledges already made; events already scheduled as fund-raisers; the annual auction; skimming 10% off of the pre-conference fees as has been approved; donations accompanying registrations; etc] I suspect we may be asked for as much as \$20,000 USD.

For any who don't know what I am talking about, at each biennial conference we make financial grants to persons financially-challenged, to enable them, to attend the conference. To date we have granted about \$50,000 USD to persons from about 20 countries, including persons from Australia, South Africa, Egypt, New Zealand, Turkey, Greece and India - in addition to the US, Europe and the UK. These individuals have greatly enriched the conferences and many have brought back AAGT to their homelands. The Scholarship Fund, like the Process Groups, is one of the distinguishing features of the conferences and of AAGT, a [truly] international community.

Please help by : making donations; staging events to raise money [past events have included 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 [recently one of our regions (in Australia) held a conference and raised \$1000 USD for the fund]!

Thank you on behalf of the fund committee, the board and the grantees,

Bud Feder  
 Scholarship Fund Chairperson



# Conference News



## CALL FOR PROCESS GROUP LEADERS

After every AAGT conference the feedback most often received from participants is how wonderful the process group experience was for them. PROCESS GROUPS are an integral part of our AAGT Conferences. They are a unique gestalt therapy approach to conferencing. Process Groups help shape the experience of the participants and contribute to the on-going creation of the conference as organically emerging here-and-now experiences. They put process and program in a co-creating relationship.

Each group has two “leaders/facilitators” who encourage, stimulate, and support the conference participants to attend to their experience exploring the unique meaning/ value of the conference to them. Process group leading is different from running a therapy group. 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. But many of our most experienced members are busy organizing the conference or making presentations and others may feel they don't have the necessary experience or confidence in running groups, or may see the conference as a well-earned break. Some members may not know we need experienced and less experienced volunteers. We definately need your help!! If you haven't led a process group at any of our prior conferences please consider doing so in Philadelphia. If you did so in the past please do so again.

Please fill out an application form below and return via e-mail as soon as possible, and if you require further information, contact: Jack Aylward at [JackatPCC@aol.com](mailto:JackatPCC@aol.com), or Perry Klepner at [perry302@aol.com](mailto:perry302@aol.com)

Process Group Committee: Jack Aylward, M’Lou Caring, Claire Asherson Bartram, Perry Klepner, Anne Leibig.

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 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:.....  
 .....

Please Return ASAP or contact one of us for information or help!  
 Please cut and paste this form in an e-mail and send to:  
 Jack Aylward - [JackatPCC@aol.com](mailto:JackatPCC@aol.com) and Perry Klepner - [perry302@aol.com](mailto:perry302@aol.com)



# Conference News



## COMPLIMENTARY HOUSING IN PHILADELPHIA

We are initiating a new tradition for the upcoming international conference - providing complimentary housing in people's homes for conference attendees from all over the world, should they prefer that and/or cannot afford hotel. This has not been offered since the Cleveland conference in 2002!

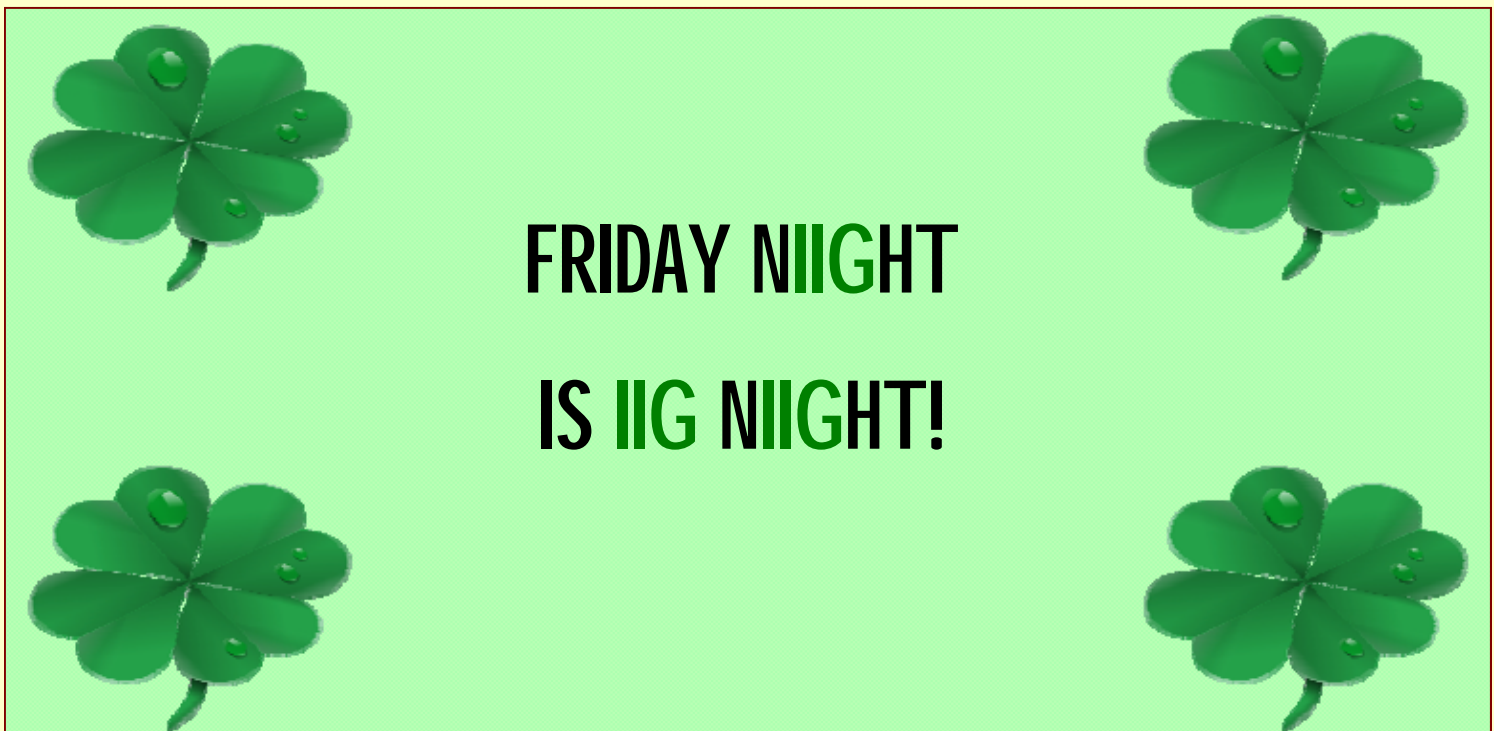
I have taken on the job of coordinating this and am already receiving requests from all over the globe! This is a great opportunity to get to know people much more fully than just being at the conference together. I hope together we can make the people attending this conference feel warmly welcomed to Philadelphia.

For those of you who are traveling to Philly, if you would like to stay at someone's home, please email me and I will do my best to match you with a Philadelphia host. Please include your gender, any pet allergies you might have, if you smoke, and if you will need transportation to the conference site and/or can manage public transportation.

Philadelphians: If you can host someone in your home, **PLEASE contact me via email ASAP**. Let me know:

- ♥ how many people you can house
- ♥ where you live
- ♥ whether or not you will be driving to and from the conference (Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, 2nd and Walnut)
- ♥ how close you are to public transportation
- ♥ pets you have
- ♥ your email address
- ♥ any preferences about guest (gender, non-smoker, etc.)

Ellen Cohen [whitewinde@comcast.net](mailto:whitewinde@comcast.net)







# Conference News



## AAGT AUCTION

As always, there will be an auction at the AAGT Conference in Philadelphia aimed at raising money for scholarships. Several of the traditional items are already in place and a silent auction and a live auction are planned. Gestalt related items, like journal subscriptions or books or participation in workshops, are, of course, welcome. We would also value offers of time in vacation homes or other valuable things or experiences that might entice people to make a contribution. Volunteers will be needed at the conference to administer the silent auction and to process the payments. 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).

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## AAGT GOLF OUTING

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 from the hotel will be coordinated depending on the size of the group. Club rentals will be arranged as required. All fees will be paid directly to the course and other vendors 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 [eeric1@comcast.net](mailto:eeric1@comcast.net).

# PHILLY CEILIDH

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

Contact Jon Blend on [life-changes@ntlworld.com](mailto:life-changes@ntlworld.com)



**Click here to go to the  
Conference [Web Site](#).**





**CONTINUITY AND  
CHANGE:  
GESTALT THERAPY  
NOW  
AAGT 2010  
Conference**



**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA  
June 1 - 6  
pre-conference workshops June 1 - 2**

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

*Opening Plenary Speakers: Frank Staemmler (Germany), Lynne Jacobs, (USA),  
Myriam Muñoz (Mexico), Gordon Wheeler, Moderator (USA)*

- ⇒ **AAGT Process Groups & Community Meetings**
- ⇒ **22 Peer Reviewed Pre-Conference Workshops**
- ⇒ **49 Peer Reviewed Workshops**
- ⇒ **6 Panel Presentations**
- ⇒ **8 Invited Presentations**
- ⇒ **Newcomers Orientation**
- ⇒ **Dinner Dance, Golf Outing & AAGT Auction**
- ⇒ **A Global Gathering - over 16 countries represented**

Registration Information at  
[www.philadelphia2010.aagt2.org/registration.html](http://www.philadelphia2010.aagt2.org/registration.html)

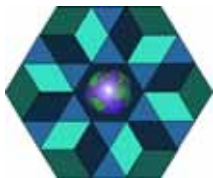
Help us get the word out!  
**PRINT THE FLYER**  
**ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE**  
**AND PASS IT ALONG**  
**TO COLLEAGUES !**

**Our 2010 Philadelphia Conference Chairs & Co-Chairs**

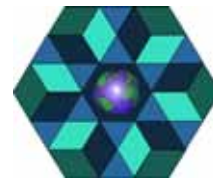
Co-conveners:	Cathy Gray	<a href="mailto:cathybgray@gmail.com">cathybgray@gmail.com</a>
	Burt Lazarin	<a href="mailto:BRlaz@aol.com">BRlaz@aol.com</a>
Presentations	Marlene Blumenthal	<a href="mailto:marloblum@yahoo.com">marloblum@yahoo.com</a>
	Gail Feinstein	<a href="mailto:ursaluna@aol.com">ursaluna@aol.com</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>
Process Groups:	Perry Klepner	<a href="mailto:Perry302@AOL.COM">Perry302@AOL.COM</a>
	Jack Aylward	<a href="mailto:JACKatPCC@aol.com">JACKatPCC@aol.com</a>
Treasurer:	Janneke van Beuskom	<a href="mailto:jmvanbeuskom@comcast.net">jmvanbeuskom@comcast.net</a>
Scholarship:	Bud Feder	<a href="mailto:bfeder@comcast.net">bfeder@comcast.net</a>
Auction:	Eric Hoffman	<a href="mailto:eeric1@COMCAST.NET">eeric1@COMCAST.NET</a>
	Linda Brownell	<a href="mailto:reachlq@juno.com">reachlq@juno.com</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:whitwinde@comcast.net">whitwinde@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 Ginsung	<a href="mailto:kginz68@gmail.com">kginz68@gmail.com</a>
Special Projects:	Cindy Oms	<a href="mailto:cindyom@comcast.net">cindyom@comcast.net</a>
Welcome Committee:	Barb Taylor	<a href="mailto:barbtaylor.lcsw@gmail.com">barbtaylor.lcsw@gmail.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>
	Laura Jackson	<a href="mailto:laurajackson507@gmail.com">laurajackson507@gmail.com</a>
Work Study:	Jo Wentling	<a href="mailto:owen190@msn.com">owen190@msn.com</a>
Hotel Room Sharing	Maria Kirchner	<a href="mailto:Mariapkirchner@gmail.com">Mariapkirchner@gmail.com</a>
Nancy Bristol	Program Publication	<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>

**Thank You  
Volunteers!**





# BOARD REPORTS



## **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.

### **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

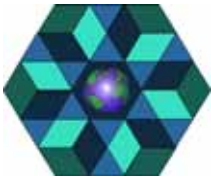
and T's], allocating the funds and evaluating the effectiveness of the program. Here are our ideas about these aspects:

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 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

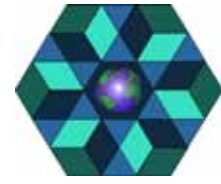
2] **Resources database:** an internet resource listing T's who may be available to do non-paid work in RC's. This could be specific if it comes to areas of interest, dates available, frequency. DFOC could act as a matching agency and could encourage the initial contact between RC's and T's.

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 Kincel (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,



# BOARD REPORTS



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 responsible 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 Kincel*

## Update: Membership Directory on the Website

The membership directory is still under development at this time. After collecting member input, the Board has decided that AAGT will pursue a "Member's Only" section on the web site that will be password protected. The current directory will be the model and contains the following fields: First Name, Last Name, Full Address, E-Mail Address, Telephone & Fax, Special Interests and Service Exchange Program (SEP). Please address any additional concerns to Charlie Bowman at [aag-tone@gmail.com](mailto:aag-tone@gmail.com)

## Dear AAGT Board members,

We facilitators of the Gestalt Inter-Institute event last Saturday - Dan Bloom, M'Lou Caring, Susan Gregory, Ken Meyer, Patricia Tucker, Lee Zevy - were grateful to receive the bouquet of beautiful flowers which you sent us during our event. Your generous gesture delighted us and helped everyone in the room (30 attendees plus the facilitators) to feel seen and encouraged by you in our Gestalt community undertaking. Many thanks to you, the AAGT board.

Sincerely,  
Susan Gregory for the facilitators and attendees

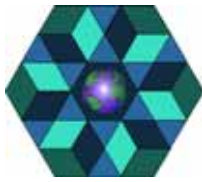
## AAGT Board Minutes Online

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.

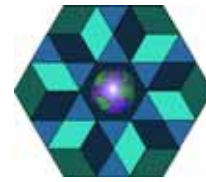
## Join the AAGT Member's List

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





# Regional News



## Reflections: Tokyo, Japan National Gestalt Therapy Conference Nancy Woldt



After a long flight from Ohio USA to Tokyo, Japan, we arrived wrinkled and weary. We were graciously welcomed to the Keio Plaza Hotel, Shinjuku, by one of the hosts, Masa Momotake, director of Gestalt Network Japan. Following a tour of the Government Meeting Center where the conference was to be held, we enjoyed a traditional Japanese barbecue with our hosts and members of the planning committee.

As a guest during the conference I had the opportunity to observe planners, presenters and attendees throughout the entire conference. It was a pleasure to experience the interactions of everyone involved. There seemingly effortless accommodations of everyone's needs created a safe environment for meaningful dialogue in spite of the language barrier. The team of interpreters were generous and patient. Noriyoshi Okada and Masa Momotake proved to be able facilitators for myself, Ansel, Gordon Wheeler.

Each day our transportation from the hotel to the conference center included a lovely Gestaltist escort, Kay (Kayano Mizuno). All the meals were planned with attention to variety and pleasure. The conference was relaxed, warm and filled with energy and excitement for their community's growth and associating. And in the truest tradition of Gestalt conferencing, the parties and celebrations were deliciously fun. You'd have thought they had all attended the gala evenings with the AAGT Irish Interest Group. "Arigato Gozaimas!" (That is Japanese for "Thank You" to all involved.

## Advancing Gestalt Therapy in Japan Ansel Woldt



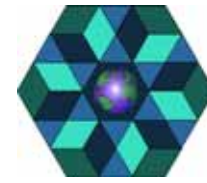
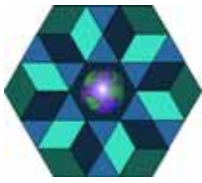
### Workshop on Gestalt Contact Boundaries & the Cycle of Experience

Eleven days of travel filled with meeting wonderful people, enjoying a fabulous culture and finding fulfillment as a Gestalt educator, trainer and therapist at the first National Gestalt Therapy Conference in Japan prompt me to want to share some highlights of these experiences with our international community. Coming from Ohio USA, I found it easy to say "Good Morning" in Japanese, which is, "**Ohio!**" -- the only thing I knew to say in Japanese. Needless to say, there were many warm greetings daily as we welcomed each day with "**Ohio!**"

Since Nancy has reported some of her experiences as a guest of the conference organizers, I will share some of the "content" and "process" experiences. The welcoming process by the conference organizers, Noriyoshi and Masa, combined with the support of brilliant and lovely translators and the diligent work of the conference planning committee consistently left me feeling like royalty. Treating people "royally" seems to be second nature to the wonderful people we met. I was also honored to be working side-by-side with Gordon Wheeler, the other American Gestaltist invited to present at the conference. While our presentations and workshops were in separate rooms, we were able to share our experiences and ideas between sessions, over dinners, etc.

My opening presentation was on "Gestalt Group Therapy." While I have taught graduate





courses in all facets of small group theory and practice for over 40 years, I wanted this to be something fresh, new and exciting. Believe it or not, I had a dream about Gestalt group training the night before the conference opened that woke me up at 4:30 AM followed by a brain-storm that I couldn't resist acting on. By 7:00 AM I had a brand new design for my opening workshop, which I was very excited and anxious to try. With Noriyoshi as my translator and about 60 Japanese therapists sitting on the bamboo floor in circles of 7-8 each, the 3 hour workshop was amazingly successful.

My next event was an interview in front of an auditorium full of Japanese therapists by Noriyoshi on the history of Gestalt therapy, including what I know of Gestalt training throughout the world and my own pedagogical approach. The interview went smoothly and my anxiety soon subsided as we explored several boundaries of the Gestalt world.

My third presentation was entitled, The Fritz and Gloria Film – To Be or Not To Be Like Fritz. I was purposely asked to provide an update on relational Gestalt therapy as part of my critique of the film. This was a real nerve-racker for me as the film was a "voice-over" in Japanese combined with technical problems playing the film, and then it stopped 3-4 minutes before the end so those who hadn't viewed it before didn't get to see what I consider to be the best part of Fritz's work. In spite of the fact I have played and critiqued this film many times in our graduate program and pretty much know it by heart, it was difficult to follow some of the questions from the audience – perhaps because they were somewhat laden with emotions. I was informed that many Japanese Gestaltists continue to follow in Fritz's footsteps in the way he performed in the Gloria film. So my critique with commentary about dialogical contact and 'I-Thou' relational therapy was met with some surprise and skepticism. I don't think any of them knew about how the filming ended those many years ago when Fritz flicked his cigarette ashes into Gloria's outstretched hand during the cocktail celebration. In the end I felt well received and whatever controversy may have existed was smoothed over with honorable complements.

I will not go into detail about my other workshops on Gestalt Contact Boundaries, the Gestalt

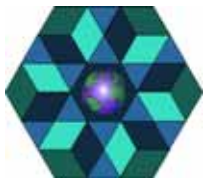
Cycle of Experience and Gestalt Dream Therapy, all of which were experiential demonstrations. I have also been in contact with AAGT's RCP in Japan, Seishi Harada, to find out more about the other Gestalt therapy ventures in their lovely country – more about that in our next Newsletter. In closing I want to publicly thank the new friends we made in Japan and look forward to our future contacts, knowing that we have been invited back as presenters in July 2010 at their second national conference, along with Dr. Cynthia Reynolds who will be presenting on Gestalt therapy with children. .



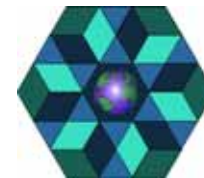
Noriyoshi, Gordon, Ansel & Masa  
at the close of the conference



Gordon Wheeler at Closing of Conference



# Regional News



## A Report on the AAGT Southeast USA 3rd Annual Conference "Being a Gestalt Community...As the Leaves Turn" By Anne Leibig

Ashville, North Carolina  
October 16-18, 2009



Some of the participants as the 2009 conference closes.  
Photo: Charlie Bowman.

As AAGT's South East USA Regional Contact Person (RCP) I am pleased to report that our third annual regional conference in Asheville North Carolina was a fulfilling fun filled time. I sent out an e-newsletter to the 30 plus participants (see below). This event was a partnership with AAGT-an International Community, the Appalachian Gestalt Training Institute and the Gentle Bio-Energetic Institute. We are planning to host the fourth conference 2010 in Asheville, October 15-17th, 2010. You all come! Check the web site AGTI.org for continuing information.

AAGT-SE USA October Regional Conference, Asheville North Carolina - Ansel Woldt has summarized the evaluations submitted by 30 of the 33 participants. 96% of you gave a positive response for the overall format of the conference. "This was fresh and eye-opening; after 40 years in this business I didn't think there was much more that I'd learn – and I learned a lot," wrote one participant. "I'm very pleased that I chose this experience – both for my personal work and my professional development," wrote another.

Flowers: Dan Bloom emailed me to ask if we had re-

ceived the flowers. I told him we had not. He said flowers were sent to the Ramada Ridge with the following message:

"The life blood of AAGT is its members. You at this Regional Conference are bringing your energy to the entire organization. You inspire us all. Thank you for helping make AAGT a community. Have a wonderful time at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you at our conference in Philadelphia, June 2-6,2010. Best wishes -The Board on behalf of AAGT, an international community."

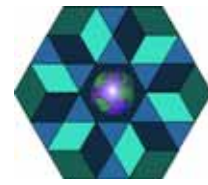
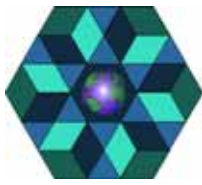
Charlie Bowman, immediately after the conference, wrote the following to the AAGT organization e-mail list:

"I wanted to pass along how marvelous the AAGT SE USA Conference was last weekend. A success in every way! The workshops I attended were great, the community meetings and planned events were fun - including the spectacular belly dancing at the Middle Eastern restaurant Saturday night! After the conference we went into Asheville for the Jewish festival -- a big event that was quite unexpected in North Carolina! Ann and I ventured around the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and over to US 129 in Tennessee, otherwise known as the "Tail of the Dragon (318 turns in 11 miles) in our Corvette. Ann drove it and we had a wonderful stay and visit in the Park Sunday and Monday. Many thanks to Anne Liebig and the team at the Appalachian Gestalt Institute. I was especially warmed by the hospitality and the young people studying there."



Anne Teachworth, conference presenter and Director of the Gestalt Institute of New Orleans, has a reunion with her cousin at the Asheville conference. Credit: Charlie Bowman.





## **AAGT/NE Regional Conference in New York City January 23, 2010, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm**

### **Together Again, For the First Time: Gestalt Therapy and Inter-Subjective Systems Psychoanalysis**

#### Lead Discussants:

Lynne Jacobs, Ph.D.



lives in two psychotherapy worlds: she is on the faculty of the Pacific Gestalt Institute in Los Angeles, teaches and trains gestalt therapists world-wide and also a training and supervising analyst at the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis.

She is co-author (with Rich Hycner) of *The Healing Relationship in Gestalt Therapy: A Dialogic / Self Psychology Approach*. She has also written numerous articles for gestalt therapists and psychoanalytic therapists.

Donna Orange, Ph.D.



is a supervising analyst and faculty member at ISIPSe (Institute for Specialization in the Psychoanalytic Psychology of the Self and Relational Psychoanalysis, Rome) and Faculty and Supervising Analyst, Institute for the Psychoanalytic Study of Subjectivity, New York.

She is co-author of several books, including *Working Intersubjectively: Contextualism in Psychoanalytic Practice* with George Atwood and Robert Stolorow and co-edited *Beyond Postmodernism: Extending the Reach of Clinical Theory*. Her most recent book is *Thinking for Clinicians: Philosophical Resources for Contemporary Psychoanalysis and the Humanistic Psychotherapies*.

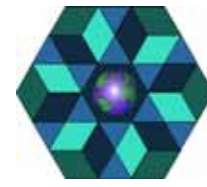
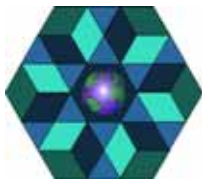
Lynne Jacobs and Donna Orange start us off for a day of case presentation, discussion, small group process and exploration, in which the gestalt therapy and inter-subjective psychoanalytic communities will discover common and different ground — in the spirit of dialogue.

	Early Registration (by Jan 1, 2010)	Late Registration (after Jan 1)
Regular Registration	\$100	\$120
Student	75	75
AAGT Member*	90	110

\*Join on-line, [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org)

For Further Information: Ken Meyer - AAGT NE Region RCP at [GestaltSeminars@aol.com](mailto:GestaltSeminars@aol.com)





**AAGT/UK PRESENTS A WEEKEND OF EVENTS 6-7 FEBRUARY  
TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND ASSISTING MEMBERS ATTENDING THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA USA,  
2-6 JUNE 2010**

**\*\*\*PRE-WORKSHOP EVENT\*\*\***

**FANCY DRESS PARTY AT JUDY'S OPEN TO ALL!!**

*12 Almeida Street, London N1 1TA*

*Saturday 6 February 7-11pm.*

*Featuring: POT LUCK FOOD (Please Bring A Dish), CASH BAR, PROMISES AUCTION \*, CONFERENCE  
INFO... DRESS AS YOUR DEMON/ DEAMON!*

*Please send confirmation / auction offers to: [judygraham@talktalk.net](mailto:judygraham@talktalk.net)*

*NB Ring us ASAP for information re applying to conference (bursaries, lodgings /  
room share scheme, reduced entry (students/ seniors/ 'work for study' scheme.)*

*Jon & Judy, RCPs*

*Followed by a workshop ...*

## **The Self and The Skin: Relational Self and Eating Disorders**

*Gestalt Therapy understands self as always being relational to otherness. Gestalt is a holistic therapy: the primary source of that relationship is physical (somatic and sensory) experience. The relationship between body and self is complex. We can treat a tool as an extension of our body, and we can treat parts of our body as objects to be examined. Using exercises and demonstration work within an experiential / theoretical framework, Peter will outline a Gestalt approach to working with the body, drawing on research into neuroscience and applications to eating disorders.*

**Peter Philippon Msc** trainer, Manchester Gestalt Centre founder, author of 'Self in Relation' and 'The Emergent Self'.

**February 7<sup>th</sup> 10am -5pm: Gestalt Centre, 62 Paul St, London EC2A 4NA**

**£100 (10% reduction for students)**

*(NB money raised from these events will go into a scholarship fund to enable students and therapists on low income to apply for bursaries to attend conference)*

To book your place, send cheque to Judy Graham

12 Almeida Street London N1 1TA

Judy Graham [judygraham@talktalk.net](mailto:judygraham@talktalk.net)

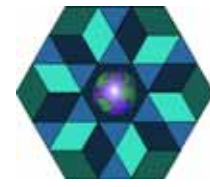
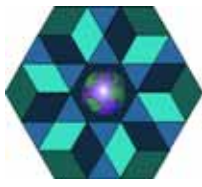
Tel 020 7354 2240 Regional Contact Person

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

Tel 020 8992 1982 Regional Contact Person

*For conference prog. / accommodation / membership details:*

[www.philadelphia2010.aagt2.org](http://www.philadelphia2010.aagt2.org) / [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> AAGT Australia Regional Gathering Exploring The Spirit of Gestalt Therapy

12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Gunnebah Retreat in the beautiful Tweed Valley

[www.gunnebah.com.au](http://www.gunnebah.com.au)

Two nights accommodation, all meals, 5 workshops and registration

ALL FOR ONLY \$300

Register at [www.gestalt.org.au](http://www.gestalt.org.au) click “events”

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

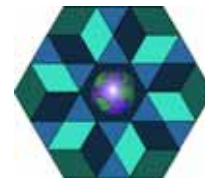
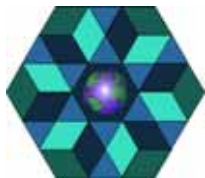
**I-Thou** **Inter-connection of the Field** **The Narrow Ridge Between**  
**Sitting with Not Knowing** **The Fertile Void** **Either/or vs. Both**  
**Co-Creation** **Ambiguity** **Contact with Difference**  
**Spiritual Introjects** **Awareness & Wholeness.**

Join us for this exciting and nurturing exploration

Co-ordinator; Kerry Shipman 0266 57 2702 0458 265 421

[keiv@westnet.com.au](mailto:keiv@westnet.com.au)





## **PIG: Play Interest Group By Tine van Wijk**

Dear AAGT members,

Underneath you find a chapter of my new manuscript, probably titled "Longing to Connect in a Playful Gestalt Way." I present it to you because I am curious if you are interested in this topic. I have some doubts since the two proposals about experimenting with creative writing I submitted to the Philadelphia Conference Planning Committee were rejected. One remark of the reviewers: "...fun experience...is this our main purpose...?"

My question to you as a member of the AAGT is: What is our main purpose, if having fun and feeling happy is not? Are you open to playful, creative workshops during our conferences? Personally I think we should, because I assume that we as AAGT members want to live a creative and therefore playful life.

In the last Gestalt Review, volume thirteen, number two in an interview Joe Melnick had with Joseph Zinker I read: "More often than not, the creative process results in other people's confusion or disapproval. ...It can anger and alienate those who witness it."

From the text of my chapter:

### **Gestalt as an Art**

"Therapy is also an art. It's more of an art than it is a science. It takes a lot of intuition and sensitivity and an overall view means something very different from a piecemeal association approach. Being an artist is functioning holistically. And being a good therapist also means that (Laura Perls).

When she read this she almost cried, it touched her so deeply. It is her inner truth she has known since she became a therapist, but she did not dare to say it out loud to colleagues. Before she became a therapist she was an editor of illustrated magazines. She loved her job as it was about people and she became dissatisfied when it dawned on her that she was never allowed to speak her own voice.

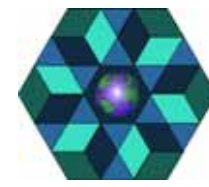
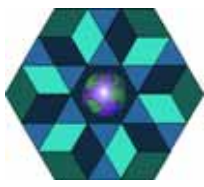
The commercial side of publishing directed her to write what the readers wanted to read. And that was not exactly the same as what she had to tell. Becoming more and more frustrated she went on a spiritual journey and found Eastern philosophies as Hinduism and Zen Buddhism before she found Gestalt.

Becoming her own boss as a therapist was her turning point. As she immediately started to work with groups she had a big practice within half a year. The first ten years she just worked, nobody interfered until the EAGT (European Association for Gestalt Therapy and Theory) was founded and Gestalt therapists who wanted to belong and become members had to submit to criteria that made her anxious. She should have been a psychologist or something close to it. But she was not.

Because she had experience as a professional already for 15 years she was allowed to become a member nevertheless. She felt rather humiliated. The message she got was that she was second rate because 'they' thought she missed knowledge.

As she is curious and loves to learn, she believed them and discovered that the kind of theories she was supposed to know, were - for her - just facts that needed exploring, experimenting, practicing to become alive.

While working she realized there is a split that should be solved. She is more an artist than a scientist. Not because she is too



stupid to study, but because she has a different mind and body. For one thing she is a woman and a writer and she does need the dance, the music, the singing, the painting to function. What she knows about human relations she learned by practicing and by living her life fully.

Of course her interest in life and human relations started by being the daughter of a veteran of WWII, who declared himself crazy and disappeared in a psychiatric institute when she was fourteen. If she knew one thing for certain it was that her beautiful, sensitive, intelligent father – although he could behave rather outrageously – was NOT crazy, but the society she lived in was.

Having experienced war as a child from age three to eight she knew that life is serious and death is a reality. She knew how cruel people can be, how blind and insensitive. Like her father she is passionately committed to exploring the drive behind the behavior of people who have the power. Her longing is to communicate and connect also with them.

She wants to understand why people can be so frustrating to each other. It is not a linear question with a straight answer. To know more she has to explore and writing can be a way to do it.

Back to the Gestalt Review and Joseph Zinker: "Stay away from rigid theories of ethics and inflexible religious dogma.

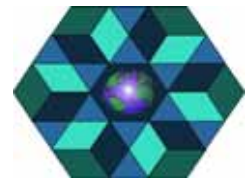
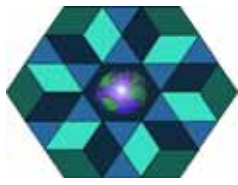
Explore your capacity for playfulness, experimentation, and improvisation.

Instead of asking yourself what is. Try to ask what could be ."

I sincerely hope I am not the only one who feels invited and stimulated to go to Philadelphia to explore what could be. Could be fun!

## How about a PIG? Play Interest Group?





## Lost in Transformation

- Changing Identities in a Changing World -

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

Dear Colleagues,

The 10th EAGT Conference will take place in Berlin September 9-12th, 2010. The 2010 Team organizing the Conference is the German Association of Gestalt Therapy (DVG).

2010 is a year with several jubilees: It's the 10th conference of EAGT, in the year of EAGT's 25th anniversary. Already two good reasons to celebrate! But 2010 is also the year of the 100th birthday of Ralph Hefferline, the 20th dying day of Laura Perls and the 40th dying day of Fritz Perls, the 120th birthday of Kurt Lewin, the 140th birthday of Max Wertheimer.

For more information and program details, visit us at

[www.gestalt2010.eu](http://www.gestalt2010.eu)

We hope to see many of you in the city of Berlin next fall!

On behalf of the "2010 Organization Team,"

Christof Weber

# Associating!

**Got a message to share?**  
**Let us know what's up in your part of the world!**  
**Post a personal note or an organizational invitation.**  
**Free in the AAGT Newsletter!**

## **Early December, 2009 - Winter approaches but it approaches slowly.**

As I write, we have a blue sky and balmy weather. I'm looking at the trees whose leaves have fallen, and the sky is visible through the branches. It is beautiful to see. I have been reading a book called *Reading the OED* by Ammon Shea. The author decided to read the entire *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) in one year. I am in total awe of him.

In addition to my awe, I have had a flood of memories of my childhood. I spoke very little as a child but read a great deal. When I was nine years old I was sent to camp. There I read a series of fairy tale books called "*The Blue Book*," "*The Red Book*," "*The Purple Book*," and others of different colors. When I had no book available, I read the back of cereal boxes, the stock market news, and anything else that had words on it. I still would rather read than talk, but, obviously, I do talk more now.

My childhood was a difficult one, but I didn't know it until I became an adult. My mother died when I was five years old, and I lived with numerous families, none of whom had children. No adult ever asked me a question. At least, I have no memory of this happening. I grew up watching adults fight, and I must have decided early that I would not learn from them. Instead, I learned from my reading, which has served me well and given me a love of words.

In Shea's reading of the *Oxford English Dictionary* he finds words that he likes and then talks about them. Here are a couple of them that caught my fancy about how some lovely positive-sounding words have disappeared from use and some negative ones have remained popular: **Benedicence [ n]: benevolence in speech.**

Shea says: "I suppose it makes sense that common occurrences should have more words to describe them, and that less frequent occurrences should have fewer. Which would explain why the OED includes dozens of words that describe rudeness and ill will, whereas this is the only word that I can find that means **kind conversation.**"

Likewise, he draws attention to: **Benignant [adj]: showing or having warm feelings toward inferiors.** He says about this: "How telling it is that **Malignant** should survive - even flourish - while use of **Benignant** has all but died out." I want to add that as soon as I was old enough to find out about the movies, going to them became my second way of learning about the world - what I wanted it to be and what I did not want it to be. Both books and movies brought me to adulthood, and they did it well.

I recently saw George Clooney in the movie "Men Who Stare at Goats," and it reminded me how I have ended up loving the world - no matter how crazy it is! Hope all is well with you. Warmly, Sonia

## *Looking Inward, Looking Outward*

A Residential Workshop in the Colorado Rockies  
 Presented by: The Gestalt Therapy Institute of Philadelphia

Treat yourself to a week of growing, meditating, relaxing and playing at Crestone Mt. Zen Center on the edge of Colorado's magnificent Sangre de Cristo range overlooking the San Luis Valley. Through experiential exercises, movement, dialog, music and creative imagery you are invited to explore how your self unfolds in relationship with others and experiment with new ways of being in the world.

Conducted by Cathy Gray, MSS, LCSW and Gary Gray, MAT  
 40 CEU's available to qualified participants

[www.grayconnection.net](http://www.grayconnection.net) for additional information and registration form





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

**Philip Brownell's book, Gestalt Therapy: A Guide to Contemporary Practice (with Foreword by Dan Bloom)**, will be published by Springer Publishing in February of 2010, and he has just signed a contract with Springer for a second book, Paradoxical Recovery: A Gestalt Therapy Perspective on Addiction and Self-Medicating Behaviors, with a projected publishing date in 2011.

**The Gestalt Training Institute of Bermuda ([www.gtib.org](http://www.gtib.org)), in partnership with the Academy of Executive Coaching ([www.aoc.com](http://www.aoc.com)), will present "The Bermuda Model" for training in executive coaching.** This is a comprehensive training model bringing together both intermediate and advanced levels of training. It is accredited by the International Coach Federation and the European Mentoring and Coaching Council. Our first trainers for the first cohort will be John Leary-Joyce and Anne Archer. John is President and founder of AoEC, was Managing Director of the Gestalt Centre London, and has a thirty-year career in clinical psychology. Anne has over twenty years experience in leadership development and senior management with a Master's in Management and Organizational Development. Inquiries about the Bermuda Model can be sent to [info@gtib.org](mailto:info@gtib.org).

**Philip Brownell has been named Series Editor for a series of books focused on The World of Contemporary Gestalt Therapy**, which will be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. The first in that series is the Handbook for Theory, Research, and Practice in Gestalt Therapy, now also being translated for publication in French, Spanish, Czech, Korean, and Chinese. The second book in the series will be titled Continuity and Change: Gestalt Therapy Now, and it will cover the proceedings and contents of the 10th biennial conference for the AAGT, June 1-6, 2010. Dan Bloom and Christine Stevens are the editors handling that project. Subsequent volumes are already being planned to include subjects such as the History of Gestalt Therapy. Proposals for other volumes can be sent to Phil ([phil@gtib.org](mailto:phil@gtib.org)). Include in your proposal: Title, Description and Purpose, Annotated Table of Contents, Description of Author(s)/Editor(s), Audience and Potential Market, Competitive Works, Details of the Manuscript.

**GATLA is extremely pleased to announce that we are within days of signing a contract with a spectacular four star 14th Century Teutonic Castle in the Lake District of Poland** to hold our 39th annual summer residential training programs. The second largest of its type in Europe, this incredible castle, built by Teutonic knights/monks, has had many lives. In the 1950's and '60's it was a women's prison. In 2001, the decaying ruins were bought by a hotel group and after 4 years of painstaking restoration, has been reborn as a true 4 star hotel.

**Dates: Couples Therapy Training Workshop: July 4-10, 2010 Gestalt Therapy Training Workshop: July 11-23, 2010**  
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. Bob and Rita Resnick spent a night of the Thanksgiving holiday flying to Poland to check this place out. They loved the facilities, food, location, meeting rooms and ambience. 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, a laser rifle shooting range, spa and beautiful indoor pool and more. Lastly, this 800 year old castle has its own ghost. Check this place out (English, German and Polish) at [www.zamekryn.pl](http://www.zamekryn.pl)

**GISC is pleased to announce the January 2010 release of: MENDING THE WORLD - Social Healing Interventions by Gestalt Practitioners Worldwide. Editors: 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.





## 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 on-going 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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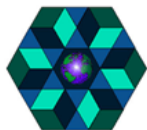
To PAY ON-LINE go to: <http://www.aagt.org>

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AAGT An International Community

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**Register for the AAGT 2010 Conference Today!**

## YOUR AAGT NEWSLETTER IS HERE!

Publications Editor:  
Marcy Stern

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### 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.

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