

# EAGT newsletter

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR GESTALT THERAPY · ISSUE NUMBER 1 · JUNE 1999

## Editorial The President's Column

Only a few years ago EAGT was no more than a four letter combination for me. The presence and connective efforts of Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb, as the President of the EAGT, has had a strong influence on the unfolding and growth of this organization in recent years. EAGT has become a natural and authoritative forum for interest in Gestalt Therapy and its advancement worldwide. I feel very honoured being asked to edit and design this Newsletter, and thereby having a chance of contributing to the enhancement of contact and connectiveness among European Gestalt practitioners. The EAGT Newsletter is foremost devoted to information of what has been discussed and decided in different committees in the EAGT Board. In the future, however, I have a vision of this newsletter, also becoming a creative tool for communication around what is of importance to you as a member, in your certain part of the European Gestalt Community. One step in this aim is a call for engagement in the critical situation in the Balkan countries. While reading the article on page 6 you can reflect upon your possible willingness to contribute with your creativity and psychological knowledge in a help project as sketched in the text.

Your creativity is welcome in any way!  
Let the EAGT Newsletter become a vehicle for your voice in the European Gestalt Community of cultural differences and common ground.

Lars Berg, Editor;  
Gestalt therapist and Artist

Siracuse, April 20, 1999

Dear Colleagues,  
This is to invite you to participate in the EAGT Meeting of Members, which will take place Sunday, July 4, from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., in Vienna, just before the beginning of the World Congress of Psychotherapy.

I announced this Meeting in my December 29, 1998, letter. Now the details.

### Agenda

On January 24, 1999, the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE agreed on the following agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of the last Meeting of Members held in Palermo, October 1, 1998.
2. Apologizes.
3. Annual report of the EXECUTIVE BOARD and its approval.
4. Annual accounts of the EXECUTIVE BOARD and its approval.
5. Report of the EXTENDED COMMITTEE
6. Report of the Ethical Committee.
7. EAGT Newsletter.
8. Election of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.
9. Annual membership fee.
10. Connection with the EAP.
11. Proposals from Members.
12. Alia.
- 13....

As you can see, the Board intends to give a suitable space for open discussion and ideas from Members during this annual meeting.

I remind you about the right for all EAGT Members of including new points in the Agenda up to one week before the Meeting of Members (via fax or e-mail or a letter addressed to me), and also the obligation of paying your membership fee in full, in order to keep your rights, including the right to vote.

### Venue

We thank our Austrian colleagues of the ÖAGG, Gestalttherapie Sektion, and the Organization Office of the World Council of Psychotherapy, who helped us in the logistical organization of our Meetings in next July. The meeting will be at the Austria Center Am Hubertusdamm 6 A-1220, Vienna (this is east side of the Blue Danube, next to the United Nations Building).

### Hotel Accomodation

We are kindly supported by the Organization Office of the WCP in order to reserve the hotel rooms for personal accomodation. If you want to use the WCP hotel facilities, the reservations can be made by the World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) whether you participate in the congress or not.

Please follow the instructions in the enclosed brochure under the voice "Hotel Booking".

### Meeting of the Extended Board

For those of you who are part of the EAGT Extended Board, you are invited to participate at the Meeting which will take place on Saturday, July 3rd, 1999, from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., the afternoon before our Meeting of Members, in the same place (Austria Center).

You have been noticed already about this meeting by Renate Becker, coordinator of the Extended Board. From this letter you have details about the Venue and hotels. Renate will send you the Agenda of the Meeting.

This is the first time that a special space is given to the Extended Board and we look forward to receiving a lot of support from this Board of representatives from European countries. We believe that the Extended Board has to become the ground of EAGT. ▶

► **EAGT Newsletter**

You are now holding the first issue of the EAGT Newsletter in your hands! We hearty thank *Lars Berg* from Sweden who made this dream come true. Lars' discrete, open, deliberate and intelligent support in getting together the contributions of the EAGT Boards and Committees is a precious example of a positive use of the potentialities that EAGT has, thanks to the professional skills of its Members.

**The Election of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer**

Nura, Bas and myself will finish our turn with the next Meeting of Members. Therefore, we will have the election of three members of the Executive Committee. During our last Executive Board meeting, we discussed our feelings and wishes to continue to work in

the EAGT. We feel that we have been doing mistakes and also a good job in these last three years, with a lot of dedication, and are aware that we have been helped in that, by many EAGT Members. We know that continuity is important in this work, as well as to be open to new members. Bas and I decided to recandidiate ourselves in the Executive Board (we dont know anything from Nura unfortunately), in order to support the Board with our previous experience.

You can candidate yourself or nominate a full member you want to propose, via fax or e-mail or a letter addressed to me.

In the Board we feel that we are becoming a community, which needs to have a lot of exchanges and to commit itself to different projects, like, for instance:

1. creating a ground of training institutes;
2. spreading much good writing that often is unknown due to language differences;
3. organizing a conference of writers;
4. spreading a list of European Gestalt therapists; and so on.

I'm sure you can add many interesting things we can do, besides those we are already engaged in.

I hope you will enjoy receiving and reading the EAGT NEWSLETTER and contribute in it with your creativity.

Looking forward to receiving your proposals about the items in the Agenda, I wish to meet you all in Vienna.

Sincerely yours,  
*Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb*  
President EAGT

## Last Executive Board Meeting

On January 23 and 24 1999, *Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb* (President), *Daan Van Baalen* (Public Relations), *Bas Lokense* (Treasurer) and *Veronique Vermeir* (Vice-President) met in Bruxelles. *Nura Paul* was excused, and for one afternoon *Renate Becker* was present as chair of the Extended Board.

After the financial report (with a modest positive saldo), we accepted 17 new individual members (10 from Belgium, 7 from the Netherlands and 1 from France) and 4 institutional members (2 from Belgium, 1 from the Netherlands and Belgium, and 1 from France). We are examining the candidatures of people from Denmark, Tsjechië, Greece and Macedonië. We are also contacting people in Finland, Lithuania, Slovachia, Russia and Spain.

We discussed and emphasized the function of the Extended Board. *Renate* will contact several people, to activate the Extended Board, getting on with the discussions on their tasks and aims. F.ex. getting in touch with the representatives of European countries, starting to work on local and European issues and getting in touch with countries which are not represented yet, in order to have an Extended Board as representative as possible. We agreed

on that more than one person can represent a country if there is more than one national association in that country.

We discussed the relationship between EAGT and EAP; see further details in the section *News from the EAP*.

We discussed the next EAGT General Meeting of Members in Vienna (July 4, 1999).

We decided to start this Newsletter and publish it once a year. We feel happy with this initiative, and are very grateful to *Lars Berg* for the editing work!

We will ask *Barbro Curman* to stay intensively in touch with us on the next EAGT Conference, that will take place in Sweden, 2001.

The new statutes are to be registered in Germany.

We will contact the Ethical Committee (voted in Palermo) on their aims and work.

Many good things are arising, and we need the help from all members to make the "machine" work like an organism-in-its-field!

*Veronique Vermeir*

## Ethical Committee

The Ethical Committee was formed at the Members Meeting during the last EAGT CONFERENCE in Palermo, Sicily. The members, all volunteers that were given mandate by approval from fellow members, are: *Anna Rita Ravenna* - Italy, *Synnøve Jørstad* - Norway, *Udi-Jutta Schneewind* - Germany and *Dick Lompa* - Holland. At their first meeting during the conference, the members agreed that *Dick Lompa* would be chair-person for the committee. The duties of the ETHICAL COMMITTEE are:

1. To work on the creation of an EAGT Code of Ethics, to be put to a vote by our next European Conference, in 2001.
2. Then to agree on a procedure to treat ethical cases.
3. Only after these two steps, the Ethical Committee might work as an "advisor" for the Executive Committee and eventually for the Meeting of Members for ethical cases.

The committee members have since been busy establishing common ground for the ways and means to complete the tasks ahead. They are presently gathering significant materials from their working fields in their respective countries to stimulate and enrich their future discussions and ex-

► changes. They have also established a timeframe for their communication via fax and e-mail and hope to arrange for a meeting together sometime this Spring or Fall. Anna Rita has offered accommodations at her insitute in Rome.

All in all, a productive start with the realization that the members of the committee still have a lot of work to do for which they all need to find the time in their busy schedules.

Dick Lompa, Chairperson

## Financial Report

This is the first Financial report I write for the EAGT Newsletter and I ask myself what is of importance for the members?

The general meeting in Palermo passed a resolution to raise the membership fee. In my opinion, as treasurer, a good decision, because we need lots of money to do our job well and to do things we didn't do before. An example is the EAGT Newsletter.

Very important issues for this year:

- to have meetings with the Extended Board;
- to register new constitution;
- the political developments in Europe for psychotherapy and particularly Gestalt therapy – our membership of the EAP;
- and of course all other topics we discussed during the Board meetings.

Because of the raise of the membership fee we can do it. The membership fee is the only income we have till now.

The biggest part of the expenditures are: board costs, travel costs, telephone and postage costs and the membership of the EAP (this year for membership R 712 and EWAO status R 1200). So if you have not paid your membership fee 1999 yet, I request you to pay it as soon as possible.

Our bank account:

31.12.98.....€ 3504;

15.3.99.....€ 7180.

For the General Meeting in

Vienna I will send you the Financial report 1998.

Bas Lokerse  
Treasurer

## News from the EAP

The connection with EAP (European Association for Psychotherapy) is now fully established. I summarize here a few points to update the situation:

1. The EAGT is the European Wide Awarding Organization (EWAO) in the EAP (voted in Bruxelles on October 24, 1998). This means that the EAGT (and its national associations) should have a determinant role in the attribution of ECP (European Certificate of Psychotherapy) to Gestalt therapists.

2. This brings the necessity of a meaningful cooperation among the Institutional members of the EAGT (especially on training standards). We discussed this in our last EAGT Board meeting and activated several parallel activities on regard.

3. The first is the Extended Board of the EAGT. The Executive Board agreed on a procedure of activation of the Extended Board: get in touch with the previous and new representatives of European countries, start to work on local and European issues. Meanwhile, the Executive Board will continue their contacts with countries not yet represented, in order to have an Extended Board with the highest representation of countries possible.

4. A coordinated work in the attribution of ECP between EAP and EAGT is necessary. This will be possible if a member of the EAGT takes part in the national umbrella organization which awards the ECP. The interim rule of grandparenting has created some problems to Institutes which seriously follow the training standards and seem to be quicked by their students who hope to have an ECP without getting all the standards. I have brought this problem to the EAP Board and have been assured that the national umbrella organizations will not apply the grandparenting rule to those who are still in training.

5. To be awarded with the ECP any European psychotherapist has to apply to the national (umbrella) awarding organization (NAO) (or directly to the EAP when the NAO doesn't exist). The NAO or the EAP will check whether the applicant fullfils EAP standards

and will address to the proper EWAO (EAGT for Gestalt therapists) to get approval on training standards or other matters (ethical issues for instance).

6. What we expect now is these rules to be properly applied. It's very important that any EWAO has a relevant role in the attribution of ECP, since this means to keep the scientific level of the EAP as an association which aims at giving autonomous dignity to the profession of psychotherapy. If the main power will be given to other – more political – values, we risk to disqualify or at least deprive our profession.

7. One general problem is to award the ECP to Eastern European colleagues who don't fullfil training standards on account of the financial situation in those countries, which don't allow them to get extensive training. It has happened already that I had to refuse the approval of colleagues from Eastern Europe, because we don't have any member from there! Even if Bas will propose to differentiate the membership fee for Eastern colleagues, this is not enough, because they usually don't fullfil training standards. This is a problem that deserves to be addressed in our next Meeting of Members. The Board needs to know the opinion of EAGT members.

8. EAGT paid a lot of money (R 1200) to confirm its EWAO status. This amount is besides the regular fee we pay as a European Association (EWO). The price is high indeed! If you consider also that the EAP seems to be at a crossroad at the moment (many conflicts previously kept in the ground are becoming open) between moving toward power or science, you understand how important it is to keep an eye on how the situation evolves.

9. We will surely know more and have the chance to discuss this matter in our next Meeting of Members, on July 4th, in Vienna.

Till then, please don't hesitate in getting in touch with me: fax +39-0931-442734; e.mail gestalt@madeinsicily.it; cellular phone +39-335-8233413.

Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb

# The Extended Board

The Board of the EAGT consists of the Board of Directors (executive committee) and the Extended Board (general committee). The Extended Board consists of members from several countries in Europe. Many countries have a national organization, some have two – like Germany and France – and some have no organization at all. The members of the Extended Board represent their respective countries, but what is each country representing?

In my opinion it's very important that every country in Europe, that has organizational or personal members of the EAGT, is represented in the Extended Board.

In order to know what's alive about Gestalt in each country, it's necessary to have at least one meeting together every year. The agenda of that meeting

is based on the influence of all members. This is the only way we can make EAGT a strong organization. The most important task of the Extended Board is to be intermediary between the organizations and personal members of the country and the Board of Directors and vice versa.

We took the first step in Brussels, in January this year. Renate Becker is elected as the President of the Extended Board. Her task is to form and enlarge the Extended Board.

## Bas Lokersee

The situation in Switzerland is such that the Gestalt therapists feel more cooperative with the Integrative therapists and therefore find it difficult to be involved more actively in EAGT.

Their representative will therefore

not come to the meeting in Vienna. However, they will stay in contact via email etc.

Although no concrete steps have been taken yet, the Training Standards are high on the agenda of the Extended Board. Some representatives are in communication and will set up a meeting in Vienna, to discuss the issues around this topic.

Please let me know, if you are interested to participate.

Barbo Curman from Sweden and myself will be present and I hope that we can work out some concrete steps to be taken. The response from members of the various countries has been slow and I hope that reading this NEWSLETTER, people will feel interested to get in touch.

Renate Becker

# List of Members – May 12, 1999

## ORGANIZATIONS

- Osterreichische A G Gestalttherapie, Austria
- Institut für Integrative Gestalttherapie Wien, Dr Alfred Grillmeier, Austria
- Vlaamse vereniging voor Gestalt, Belgium
- Multi di Mens, Belgium
- IVC Instituut voor Communicatie, Vlaamse vereniging voor Gestalttherapie, Belgium
- Faculteit voor Mens en Samenleving, Belgium
- Drusvo Gestalt Integrativnih Psihoterapeuta Hrvatske, DGIPH Josorka Golub President, Croatia
- Cambridge Gate, Sparrow's Lodge, England
- Gestalt Association UK, England
- Gestalt Psychotherapy Training Institute, England
- The Metanoia Trust, England
- The Sherwood Psychotherapy Training Institute, England
- Institut Français de Gestalt-therapie, France

- Societe Française de Gestalt, France
- Savoir Psy. Dr Pierre Coret, France
- College de Gestalt-Therapie, France
- Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt (EPG), Gonzague Masquelier, France
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Integrative Therapie, Gestalttherapie und Kreativitätsförderung, Germany
- Deutsche Vereinigung für Gestalttherapie, Germany
- Fritz Perls Institut, Germany
- Gestalt-Zentrum Göttingen, Germany
- Institut für Gestalttherapie, Germany
- Gestalt psychotherapy and, ethodology, Toulou Vlachoutsikou, Greece
- Gestalt Foundation Athens branch, Greece
- H.C.C. Human Communication Center, Italy
- Societa Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt, Italy
- Societa Italiana Gestalt (SIG), Dr Marina Lonigro, Italy

- FISIG-Federazione Italiana Scuole, Anna Rita Ravenna, Italy
- Nederlandse Vereniging voor Gestalttherapie, Netherlands
- Noord Nederlandse Gestalt Organisatie, Netherlands
- BOLT opleiding, Netherlands
- Nederlandse Stichting Gestalt, The Netherlands
- Instituut Heel, Thijs Besems, The Netherlands
- Nederlandse beroepsvereniging voor Gestalttherapeuten, NBGT Ina van Deursen Secretaris, Netherlands
- Norsk Forening for Integrativ Terapi, Norway
- Norske Gestaltinstitutt ANS, Senter for Gestalt og Psykosyntese, Norway
- Gestalt Academy of Scandinavia, Sweden.
- Schweizer Verein für Gestalttherapie (SVG), Dr Urs Isenegger, Switzerland.
- Institut Für Körper Zentrierte Psychotherapie, Switzerland.

**PERSONAL MEMBERS**

- Jaap Alberts, The Netherlands
- Angeles Arechederra Ortiz, Spain
- Lia Aarsbergen, Netherlands
- Helena Arsenidou, Greece
- Daan C. van Baalen, Norway
- Alain Badier, France
- Despina Balliou, Greece
- Ramo de Boer, Netherlands
- Géa Boiten - Stienstra, Netherlands
- Herman Boiten, Netherlands
- Xaver Buschel, Germany
- Michel Yvo de Baere, Belgium
- Gerda Boydens, Belgium
- Marjan Braam, Netherlands
- Yvonne Bok, Netherlands
- Pierre Coret, France
- Greet Cassiers, Belgium
- Marjo Claessens, The Netherlands
- F.J. Commijs, The Netherlands
- Pieter Deturck, Belgium
- Trees Deturck - Ingelaere, Belgium
- Margaretha van Dijk, Netherlands
- Luc Declercq, Belgium
- Jiri Drahota Ph.d, Czech Republic
- Anna Fabbrini, Italy
- Serge Ginger, France
- Jos Groels, The Netherlands
- Elisabeth Groenendijk, Netherlands
- Annemiek van Gurp, Netherlands
- Jutta Hommel-Schneck, Germany
- Wendela ter Horst, Netherlands
- Tineke Hommes, Netherlands
- Lluïsa Imperato, Italy
- Svein Johansen, Norway
- Anne Synova Jorstad, Norway
- Martin Jara, Czech Republic
- Augustinus Klaren, Netherlands
- Despina Koweou, Greece
- Ernst Knijff, Belgium
- Eva Kristoffersen, Norway
- Mgr. Jan Knop, Czech Republic
- Biljana Koprova, Republic of Macedonia
- Efthimia Konstantinidou, Greece
- Otteline Lamet, The Netherlands
- Annet Lampe, Belgium
- Jan Lens, Belgium
- Richard E Lompa, The Netherlands
- Georges Lambrechts, Belgium
- Christine Leys, Belgium
- Joel Latner, U.S.A.
- Giovanna Mariotti, Italy
- Traveni Mafalda Massella, Italy
- Frans Meulmeester, The Netherlands
- Sjan Meijer, The Netherlands
- Alberto Melucci, Italy
- Anne Mos, The Netherlands
- Frank van Mierlo, Belgium
- Christine de Muynck, Belgium
- Raymond de Mey, Belgium
- Gonzague Masquelier, France
- Christine Milioni, Greece
- Claire Neger, Germany
- Ester Neumanova, Czech Republic
- Adrian Oomen, Germany
- Prof. Dr. H.Pauls, Germany
- Marta Peduzzi, Italy
- Prof. Dr. Hilarion Petzold, Germany
- Dimitra Plagianakou-Kanoni, Greece
- Mrs. Gay C. Parnell Ph. D., U.S.A.
- Bert la Poutre, Netherlands
- Otteline van Panthaleon van Eck, Netherlands
- Richard Peterson, Netherlands
- Luk Peeters, Belgium
- Giuliana Ratti, Italy
- Mevr. A.C. Schoon, Netherlands
- Gro Skottun, Norway
- M.J. Start, The Netherlands
- Harm Siemens, The Netherlands
- Dagmar Steinhauselova Ph.D, Czech Republic
- Michael Tophoff, Netherlands
- Mercedes Velasco Irigoyen, Spain
- Bernadette Valentin-Mousli, Germany
- Carmen Vasquez Baudin, Spain
- Toula Vlachoutsikou, Greece
- Veronique Vermeir, Belgium
- Marjan Wiegman, The Netherlands
- Georges Wollants, Belgium
- Yamarelou Yianna, Greece



*Attendants at the 6th European Conference of Gestalt Therapy, in Palermo, Sicily – October 1–4 1998 – enjoying their togetherness during the last General Meeting. The Conference was held in a lively atmosphere and with a rich variety of workshops, minilectures and panels. With around 400 registered participants, from more than 20 nations, ground was made for heartfelt discussions and cultural exchange. The linguistic challenge was significant and the complex task for the interpreters was obvious. This also contributed to the aliveness of the conference. Its theme was "Gestalt Therapy: Hermeneutics and Clinical".*

# A Call for Engagement

We are looking for possible ways of organizing efforts to prevent some of the effects of trauma for the Kosovo refugees, in the current Yugoslavian crisis. Any number of Gestalt therapists in Europe who have time and resources to engage in a psychological project, connected to some institution or organization that operate in the area close to Kosovo, would make a good contribution.

With this endeavour in mind we have been in contact with an organization here in Sweden, called Intercult, that has a close link to a project in Macedonia.

The Albanian director *Dritero Kasapi* of the DRAMATIC THEATRE OF ALBANIA, has organized activities to help refugees from Kosovo by rearranging his theatre to the CHILDREN'S THEATRE CENTER in Skopje, Macedonia – and soon also in Albania.

We recently met *Dritero Kasapi* – who fortunately made a short visit here in Stockholm – and we had a talk around the situation for the refugees in Macedonia and Albania.

We were very moved by *Dritero's* first hand experiences from the refugee camps in Macedonia and his insightful reasoning as the ground for what he and his colleagues are doing for the Kosovo children.

The ambitions of the CHILDREN'S THEATRE CENTER is focussed on the vulnerable conditions of the children and because of the complex situation they have no counselling ambitions other than those inherent in the activities of play and expressiveness; drama, music, painting, writing and socializing. These also have the function of stress relief, being closely linked to children's normal way of handling their realities.

Concerning the possibilities of doing something for grown-up refugees, *Dritero Kasapi* reflects their obvious conflictful state of mind, being "on the road" – either waiting for deportation to another country or hoping for a coming back to Kosovo – they are not yet settled enough to be able to assimilate therapeutic efforts.

Our reactions to this information is that Gestalt therapists could very

well take part in the activities at the CHILDREN'S THEATRE CENTER, but not explicitly as therapists – rather as providers of playful experimentation, based on our knowledge of the grounding effect of engaging fully in the Here-and-Now.

There will also be other ways of connecting helpful efforts from Gestalt practitioners.

A Macedonian psychiatrist, *Mira Polazarevska*, at the MENTAL CRISIS CENTRE in Skopje, is planning a play therapeutic project, that would need support in its development.

We will connect to her about a possible collaboration by interested Gestalt therapists.

When the conflict in some way has come to an end, there might be a need for conflict resolution training and training in communication skills among people involved in making ground for collaboration in building up a new future.

There are many steps to take in terms of the realization of these ideas; many threads have to be connected and tried out.

Our basic attitude to psychological helping efforts is to tentatively connect to the conditions and needs of the people involved, not forcing any arrangements on people only because we believe it's the right thing to do.

While we check out possibilities, we'd like to know about the interest for this among therapists in the European Gestalt Community.

Let us hear from you!

We are open to ideas and suggestions that could make these kind of efforts more effective and possible.

The EAGT Newsletter could be a link for contact between Gestalt people from different institutes, countries and cultures in any subject of concern.

*Lars Berg*

*Eugenio Molini*

Swedish and Spanish-Swedish Gestalt practitioners

If you are interested, contact EAGT Newsletter at the address, phone/fax numbers or e-mail address at page 7.

# EAGT Conference

Below is a report of the planning process of the 7TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF GESTALT THERAPY, in Stockholm, Sweden, September 13 – 16, 2001.

We have built a project organization with a number of people taking responsibility for different parts of the planning. Each contact person develops a working group for her/his field of interest and all is kept together by a project committee.

We have discussed the theme of the conference thoroughly, in order to find a coherent line that has a connective and energetic quality for everyone involved in the conference planning.

The theme formulation that has won the most warmly response, and also applies to a Scandinavian model is:

THE GESTALT APPROACH IN PROCESS: "A DIALOGICAL ENCOUNTER" – applied in the fields of Society, Psychotherapy, Organizations and Research.

We all look forward to the realization of a conference that points at three main aspects of Gestalt Therapy:

1. The fundamental and phenomenological person-to-person dialogue, where therapist and client explore their separate and mutual realities as an I-Thou encounter in the Here-and-Now.

2. The development of Gestalt Therapy as a therapeutic approach, that isn't definite but has evolved over time and has been integrated with different cultures around the world and still kept its essence as The Gestalt Approach. We suggest that this essence is "A Dialogical Encounter", as well as this has been the foundation of its evolution.

3. We challenge all participants of this conference to actually engage in a process of person-to-person contact and we are aiming at structuring it in such a way as to enhance and facilitate human encounters throughout the conference.

*Welcome to join and experience a conference built on the essence of Gestalt: a Human Dialogue based on Phenomenological skills and Existential values.*

The Gestalt Academy of Scandinavia (25 years of age) will be your

# in Stockholm, Sweden – September 2001

host and Stockholm City, built on 13 islands, will be your environment.

The Gestalt Approach has developed through Dialogical Encounter. This first EAGT Conference in the new millenium will reflect the process of how the Gestalt approach has developed over the decades and how it is applied in different fields.

The process of development has been through the tool of Dialogical Encounter rather than from rules and regulations. In this way the Gestalt approach has matured organically and kept its essence, which you might call "The Soul of Gestalt".

How can we maintain that essence?

How can we describe it? Maybe as a strong and very alive plant and at the same time (and because of that) a vulnerable one?

## • The Gestalt Approach in process at the conference

The "how" of the conference will reflect our theme. "Gestalt" means holistic in practice – not only in theory. From our theory of Phenomenology we consider three zones of awareness; the inner (body), the outer (senses) and the middle (thoughts). The theme of Dialogical Encounter implies that the process of the conference will facilitate a harmonious flow between these different aspects of communication.

## ARRANGEMENTS

### • Central Stockholm

Grand Hotel in Stockholm City will host the conference during daytime and the first evening. The hotel is located with a nice view over the water. You will be surrounded by water and views – this is the identity of Stockholm. The city is built on 13 islands and the archipelago includes another 30 000 islands.

### • Day conference with evening arrangements

The conference will be kept together as a whole package concerning everything except hotel. There will be arrangements in the evenings included in the fee. The last evening will be held at the City Hall in the same place

as where the Nobel Prize party takes place every year. There will be dinner and dancing. The evening of the second day of the conference will have the theme of joint entertainment, probably linked to the archipelago.

### • Contact in focus

The main language will be English at the conference. As many Scandinavians know more than their own language plus English, we will form language groups for other languages so that we can support participants from these countries. The application form will include our wish to know your need of language support. If there are speeches of some length they will be translated in advance. Workshops will include at the most two languages. We hope to be able to arrange this through contact among colleagues, which is a way of getting to know each other. Of course we also save money.

### • Fee

We count on a fee of € 390 (Euros) including everything except bed and breakfast and of course your travel to Stockholm.

There will be a list of hotels of different standards and prices. There are also two good hostels in central Stockholm for a low price. As Stockholm is in itself a rather expensive city, we will try to compensate for that to some extent and ask colleagues and students to invite to their private homes. That is also a nice contact-making way of relating. As is a tradition there will be a lower fee if you send in your application and fee a year in advance. A lower fee for guests and hopefully a support for colleagues coming from countries which today has a difficulty to provide for this kind of events. Two colleagues are working intensely on funding for the conference.

### • Marketing

In October 1999 brochures/invitations will be sent out. The Conference will have its own web site, which will be updated step by step. The Project group keeps a close link to the EAGT Board in the planning.

Warmly welcome to Stockholm  
in September 2001  
– we all look forward to meeting you  
and exploring together!!

The Project group of the EAGT Conference, through:

Barbro Curman, Director, Therapeutic Branch of the Gestalt Academy, Project leader;  
Assar Hansson, Director, Organizational Branch of the Gestalt Academy;  
Mem Tylling, Administrator.



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR GESTALT THERAPY

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### Board of Directors (Executive Board):

Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb, Italy (President)

Bas Lokerse, The Netherlands (Treasurer)

Daan van Baalen, Norway (Public Relations)

Nura Paul, England (Secretary)

Veronique Vermeir, Belgium (Vice-president)

### Extended Board:

Renate Becker, Germany (Chair)

Brigitte Couder, SFG, France

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Despina Koweou, Greece

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"Perceptual Enigma" - Lars Berg

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