

## Letter from the President

How fast time is going – we just had our annual general meeting (AGM) in Berlin and again it's time to write a contribution for the newsletter. I have the meetings in Berlin in good memory, they showed that we are in a good process of developing EAGT in a way that more and more the National Organisations feel responsible for the policy and activities of our European Organisation. It's great to work with such a committed team of colleagues in the Executive Committee (EC) but also in other Committees. The EC has been completed with *Jelena Zeleskov Djoric* as the new chair of the NOGT's and external relations officer: welcome Jelena!

Many things are going on; After we had to postpone the implementation of GPO (Gestalt practitioners in Organisations) in our statutes and the voting on training standards of GPO, *Bas Lokerse* is very active now with a new working group on preparing this for next year's AGM.

EAGT is not only growing and getting more mature and professional as an organisation, it's also growing as the number of members are still increasing – what a good sign! Also our NOGT's are developing: ÖVG has now reached the status of an ordinary member – congratulations!

And, please also have a look at the re-launch of our website: [www.eagt.org](http://www.eagt.org). Doesn't it look fresh, informative, well structured and just good?

I'm very glad, that the AGM has supported the activities and projects of our Human Rights and Social Responsibility



Committee (HR&SR). I hope that many gestalt therapists will donate money for the projects of this committee, you will find more details in a separate letter and an article of *Guus Klaren*.

The research Committee is also growing, *Emilija Stoimenova* and *Jan Roubal* have joined our committee.

As informed at the AGM in Berlin, EAGT will sponsor the translation of a German book (Bernd Bocian: Fritz Perls in Berlin 1893-1933) into English. This book shows very detailed the social, political and cultural impacts of this time period of Fritz Perls' life in Berlin on the concepts of gestalt therapy. It gives basics that have not been described like this before. Together with DVG, the German association for gestalt therapy we will manage in cooperation with the publishing house EHP (Edition Humanistische Psychologie) to have the English version ready for our conference in Berlin, where we will celebrate also the 25th anniversary of EAGT. For this occasion we

will organise also a panel discussion with former and actual presidents and Board members on the development and future of EAGT.

I'm glad about the initiative of the German NOGT to gather information about the legal status of EAGT in the different countries. As European association we should be up to date with such information and I think we should develop some more European wide activities to support the acceptance of Gestalt therapy as an important approach in psychotherapy.

From the side of EAP a challenging initiative has been started by the European Training Standards Committee: A project in defining the professional competences of psychotherapists, distinguishing between general competences and special competencies linked to a modality. It will be a challenge to define these competences and to check the training programs, how they teach skills that lead to these competencies. Maybe in future we will rewrite our training standards and leave the measurement of content and counted hours and replace this by output-measurement of competencies.

Looking back to my first year of presidency I can say that I am really satisfied with the activities coming out and going on in our association. I'm happy to chair it and look forward to the future. I wish you all a good rest and peaceful days around Christmas and New Year.

*Peter Schulthess*  
President EAGT

## Treasurer's report

As it looks at this moment, we will close the year 2009 with a small positive balance. I am very pleased about this because the activities of EAGT have expanded considerably.

I will get back to that later on.

It seems that we again reach the limit of our possibilities as an organization. Finances will possibly prevent us to make another major step for projects of which the first steps already are made. As an organisation, we want to warrant for € 5.000,= in case of a possible loss for tri-annual organized conferences in the name of EAGT. Opposite to that is when there is a profit realized, EAGT will receive half of this profit. The working groups and committees working for EAGT weigh down the balance for € 9.000,= and this is without the work-



ing group GPO (Gestalt Practitioner for Organisations).

To make things happen and to remain able to meet these costs I will present a proposal during the Annual

General Meeting of Members in 2010 to increase the membership fee with effect from January 2011. The last increase for membership fee dates from 2005.

I will now get back to the expansion of our activities. Major activities which will give more substance to what exactly Gestalt (therapy) is and which will set us down in the centre of society. I refer to the Human Right & Social Responsibility (HR&SR) committee. The working group GPO, the Research Committee and the Fundraising Committee, which now still cost money and eventually will lead to bring in some money for amongst others the EAGT scholarship and the projects of the HR&SR committee.

*Bas Lokerse*  
Treasurer EAGT

## Letter from the Secretary

Dear colleagues,  
I would like to begin my report of a secretary with the issue of the 25th EAGT anniversary that will be celebrated during the conference and which will be held next September in Berlin.

I have been occupied these days by planning some activities connected with this occasion. First of all let me inform you about the project of the EAGT jubilee book: the main part of the work has been done by *Marga Berends* who collected and scanned EAGT archives. A big amount of material had to be checked and sorted. We decided to choose several important issues, information worth to be published that can bring you an overview of milestones in EAGT history. The publication will also bring you images from EAGT conferences, interviews with members of the association. *Lars Berg* took the editing part of this project to our great satisfaction.

Another project connected with the anniversary is an ongoing power point



presentation that I also will prepare together with Marga. We have spent some time on Skype discussing what this presentation will consist of and where to find suitable material. Finally I would like to mention a little exhibition devoted to EAGT anniversary with an interactive section for all who want to participate.

Of course the common part of my job for EAGT continues and I scruti-

nize files of applicants and communicate with the EC members via mail.

Recently I checked several files of applicants who come from non accredited training institutes. I want to express here that EAGT is an organization that is open to all Gestalt therapists who fulfil the criteria given by our training standards. The procedure of scrutinizing is very easy for those who were trained in an accredited institute. On the other side all applicants from non accredited institutes are asked for following information: curricula of the training programme and professional CV's of trainers in case that they are not EAGT members. In this case it takes some time before the proceeding is completed.

I want to finish my report with the wishes of a pleasant ending of the year 2009 and *Merry Christmas* to all of you!

*Ester Neumanova*  
EAGT secretary  
Prague, November 2009

## Report from the Training Standards Committee

Dear colleagues,  
The activity of the TSC is going on in many directions.

We are continuing the accreditations of new training institutes and the follow up of the accredited ones. At the moment the Councelling Facility for Humane Cooperation - Psychotherapy & Gestalt Training Center (CFfHC) from Skopje has started the process of accreditation and other institutes are preparing for this step.

The time for the re-accreditation has arrived: after 5 years institutes have to re-apply and the first institute will be GPTIM from Malta. We have prepared a procedure as a pilot experiment in order to have an experience to evaluate it. We are looking for a method that is able to balance the needs of having all the necessary information and to not



overwhelm institutes with extra work and costs.

In the next General Board Meeting we will present the follow up and re-accreditations procedures in order to have

feedback and to define the draft that will be voted in September in our Annual General meeting.

In order to give support to the training institutes that are looking to become accredited, as TSC we will have a Panel in the Berlin Conference where we will discuss the process and give all needed information. Some of the already accredited institutes will be invited to share their experiences. All interested parties are welcome to attend this meeting.

Finally, I would like to invite all NOGTs to encourage institutes of their countries to enter in the process of accreditation: our committee is willing to support them in any way possible.

*Gianni Francesetti*

Chair of the Training Standards Committee

## Letter from the Vice President

My first reaction is to summarize all tasks which I until now took upon me to profile myself. "See how good I am". Or... "do you all see how hard I work".

During the General Board meeting Lynda Osborne asked me: "When do you sleep?"

I recognize this from my military service. I am very well capable to give others the feeling how hard I work. In the army I did this by having a file under my arms and then honoured the several departments with a visit.

In the eighties I've created an image, without intention, of a vegetarian nature lover. Successfully. At each meal I was asked what I would like to eat. Every hostess was prepared to make a lovely vegetable dish for me or a fried egg with mushrooms. When they asked me if I would mind that the mushroom soup would be made based on beef broth I shortened my beard and later on shaved it off. I did my woolly socks in the cup-



board and gave my corduroys to the Salvation Army. Back to the Newsletter and to my role as vice-president.

"Am I here at the seed-onion-cultivators?" said 'Appie Happie' in a comic strip (by Dick Bruijnestein) of some years ago in the 'Nieuwsblad van het Noorden' (local Newspaper). During all the years I was involved with EAGT, I asked myself this several times: "What makes that?" Very Gestalt, in the here and now and in

contact.

I picture myself at the fireplace with a good glass of wine. And while I look into the flames I ask myself this question. "What makes that?" Many images come into my mind (certainly recommended to do so, too). I picture mostly re-

laxed moments during the Executive Committee meetings. There was always something to nibble. Swiss chocolate, Haagse Hopjes (a Dutch treat), Greek Maotixa. One time there was even Campari. A drink which you have to have drunk once in a life time and ice cold. It is also a question in an interview. What makes that....?

On October 16th my certification at CMI (Career Management Institute)

has been statutory renewed for a period of 3 years. The committee who judged the application for certification presented me a development point. I quote: 'Not simple, pay conscious attention to the question how to bring your insights actually into the open and therefore to the professional branch. Communicate strategically? Good luck with it?' End of quote.

During the defending of my file we

only talked about my way of working as a career professional. In my approach I only make use of the supervision methodology and the Gestalt methodology which I've gathered in the field theory. What makes the Gestalt approach so special and wherein differentiates itself from other forms of approaches in the meaning 'result' for as well the organisation as the employer becomes of a higher quality. I will stay on for a while. I think

I can learn a lot from all the enthusiastic GPO people who are willing to think along and want to be actively involved with in the development of GPO in EAGT. What do I offer? I would like to be a vice-president for a while.

I wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

*Bas Lokense*

Vice president

## Letter from the Ethics Committee

Dear colleagues,  
In Berlin, being members of the EAGT Ethics Committee, we had several meetings with delegates from countries where the law in many ways is pretty much incompatible with EAGT standards, especially concerning processing complaints.

Once again we realized that our colleagues in the European NOGT's and their ethics committees work in very different situations, which means that we must apply our EAGT Code of Ethics in a flexible way, sometimes more in its spirit than in its regulations.

Once again it was obvious that for new delegates it is almost impossible to get a clear picture of the issues and processes that are going on. The field in which the organisation functions is really big, the issues are complex and it is sometimes hard that we all are colleagues (being equal) and at the same time must fulfil the standards of the organisation (which sometimes seems to be the top dog).



This means the EAGT must be an organisation that at the same time has clear standards and supports its members in the process of obtaining their full membership. This was emphasized in several discussions we had together during our reflections on the organisation.

For this purpose we as EAGT Ethics Committee are preparing a questionnaire for our colleagues working in ethics

committees all over Europe. We hope to start the exchange of experiences of people working in these committees, coping with national laws and regulations, coping with EAGT standards, developing their vision on their work in their organisation and executing their various tasks, which may differ very much from country to country.

Surely we will publish the outcomes in our Newsletter. But also we are preparing a workshop in Berlin 2010 for our colleagues in ethics committees to discuss about the meaning of ethics in Gestalt theory, and support each other by sharing our experiences executing our various codes of ethics. If you want more information, you are very welcome to contact us at <pgjb@xs4all.nl>.

On behalf of my colleagues *Jan Roubal* and *Glenn Rolfsen*,

*Joppie Bakker*

Chair, Ethics Committee.

*“As we cultivate peace and happiness in ourselves,  
we also nourish peace and happiness in those we love.”*

*Thich Nath Hanh*

## Letter from the External Relations/NOGT officer

Dear colleagues,  
This September in Berlin I was elected for the function of External Relations & NOGT's officer. Unfortunately I wasn't able to be there and to introduce myself because of my work and I'm really sorry for that. I have read about this job in the previous Newsletter and I've contacted *Marga Berends* by e-mail and she told me more details about it. So, I applied and I was very pleased when I received an e-mail that I was elected.

Doing this job means for me that I'm involved on a daily bases concerning EAGT activities. As a member of Executive Committee I became a member of a team that is communicating and cooperating every day about many questions; from individual members and training institutes questions to NOGT organizations questions from all European countries. I would like to say that I'm very



thankful for all the support and help in doing this new job for me firstly from *Marga Berends* but also from the other members of Executive Committee. Before the time I was elected I did not have many duties, and now I'm working on the re-registration of the Slovenian NOGT SLOGES. I have been studying all materials (training standards, ethical

code and statutes) of EAGT that I got and it was very exciting for me to learn new things about the functioning of an organization like this. Also, I think that EAGT need to work on self-promotion through the media, books and more articles in some scientific journal that are on WOS (Web of Science) list, so many of psychotherapists could know about the organization. I think that it would be useful for promotion of EAGT to work on some global research projects in all European countries that could involve many gestalt therapists and gestalt organizations. I hope that next time I'll have more news and information about new NOGT (re-)registrations and I invite you to share all questions, ideas and projects that you have with me.

Hoping to hearing from you soon,

*Jelena Zeleskov Djoric*

External Relations / NOGT officer

## Report from the HR&SR Committee

Dear colleagues,  
Overlooking the past year I am satisfied about the progress we've made with both the new initiatives in the Israeli-Palestinian project and the growing cooperation with Peace Brigades International. The General Board agreed last September in Berlin with our activities for 2010 and 2011. To carry out these projects external funds are necessary. I am happy that the General Board also agreed with the budget plan 2010-2011 and proposed creative methods to collect money. See the separate letter of the Fundraising Committee sent along with this Newsletter so all members can make a positive contribution to these important projects.

The situation in Israel is still actual to carry out this project. Like I wrote in my earlier report we will organise a conference with Arabs in Israel and



Israeli, Palestinians, but also to include therapists/educators/gestalt practitioners in organisations from Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina and former conflicting parties in Northern Ireland. EAGT will organize and facilitate a platform were people from these former or

present conflicting countries can meet for dialogue. To create a permanent network with people working in conflict situations for support, to share ideas and to learn from each other about conflict resolution in local and global situations. And to take new initiatives in peace building and human rights in their own country after the conference.

A preparation group with members of our Committee and representatives of the participating countries will meet for 3 days in April 2010 to make the first steps to organise this conference in 2011.

We also decided to give a follow up on the meeting in Israel in September 2006 after the planned small conference had to be postponed. It is important to hold contact and to continue what already has started in that meeting. A lot of Israeli are suffering from inner con-

flicts about the ongoing situation in Israel. With this follow up meeting we will give them moral and emotional support. Our role as EAGT is to listen and to be witness about what is going on. We will organise the meeting from October 29th till November 1st 2010 in Israël.

The cooperation with Peace Brigades International is in an upward trend. A second full day meeting was organised in Zurich on August 26th, 2009 with 3 representatives of our Committee and 13 ex- volunteers and staff from PBI Switzerland and PBI International after the first meeting in October 2008.

Aim of the meeting was to develop a buddy training program in interaction between PBI and EAGT.

We went deeply into the experiences and needs for emotional support of the volunteers and developed roughly the content of a buddy training program for ex volunteers. A buddy project can be one of the instruments to provide for emotional support. A first pilot of this program will be carried out by HR&SR

in the week end of June 12th and 13th, 2010 in Zurich. After the first pilot in Switzerland.

The buddy training project can also be carried out for other countries.

Since representatives of PBI International were present we could also explore the needs for international support, PBI is in all countries active. Professional support is sometimes necessary after traumatic experiences and difficulties with re-integration. HR&SR promised to offer a list of selected Gestalt therapist who are willing and able to give this support on voluntary basis. In the past month all individual EAGT members, Training Institutes and NOGT's received a letter with a call to join as a volunteer. I hope a lot of you will make yourself available for this important work! If you did not receive the letter, please contact *Marga Berends* <eagtooffice@planet.nl>).

Some PBI projects (like Nepal) have no professional support available for team coaching in the field. HR&SR offered PBI also the possibility for this

support.

**Lost in transformation**, the title of the EAGT conference in Berlin, touch deeply the work of our Committee. Therefore HR&SR Committee and PBI will give a joint presentation during this conferences. Read the information in the conference leaflet.

I want to thank the active committee members for the inspiring cooperation, the background group for their valuable feedback. Welcome to *Gabrielle Nachtschatt* from Germany as a new member of our committee. Your involvement in Zen peacemaking activities will give a valuable contribution to our work. Closing I invite EAGT colleagues to contribute to our Human Rights work: to join up as a volunteer Gestalt therapist in the PBI project, with initiatives for funding-activities to make the work possible or other creative contributions.

*Guus Klaren*

Chair HR&SR Committee

## The Committee for Gestalt in Education

In Athens a group of us met to exchange notes on our work. We had a very interesting panel and in some presentations which we started to discuss gestalt in education.

"We" come from Greece, Belgium, England, Switzerland, Czech Republic, and Israel. We invite you to join us on our further explorations of gestalt's contribution to education. I took it upon myself to engage colleagues of EAGT to this important field and I invite you to come together.

Having worked for over a quarter of a century in a teachers training academia I had a chance to apply gestalt to many classes, not only through workshops and theoretical lectures, but rather by drawing attention to some basic gestalt principles like introducing a dialogical language in class or looking at the way stereotypes are formed, or encouraging students to experiment rather than give them educated solution. Do I need to



say more? My students used to regard these "TIPS" as eye-openers: "it's so simple and it makes such a difference", they used to say in surprise.

You may remember that this was where it all began: *Kofka* and *Kohler* were trying to encode the process of human learning in order to suggest better methods for children how to read. When they first defined that the human eye and brain attributes meaning to a whole

gestalt and only later looks into the differentiating details of the same gestalt, they suggested a whole new approach to teaching. They coined the name of gestalt theory and the rest is history. We became devotees...

It is a pity though, that the theories which emerged from their initial research grounded themselves in the sexier field of therapy, flirted for a long time with organizational consultancy, making the most of the inspiration of brilliant minds such as *K. Levine*, *G. Simkin* and *E. Nevis*, to name just a few, and almost completely neglecting the initial area of experiment: the field of education.

Okay, I admit, this is not completely true.

There are many of us who are actually implementing their theoretical background and practical experience in gestalt with daring creativity which results in working with teachers and students of all ages, promoting all sorts of projects

in formal and non-formal education and thus making a difference.

If you are one of them, why don't you join us. We want to know about your activity, learn from you, discuss ideas with you, so that we turn our common experience into a body of meaningful knowledge.

We are already a group of interested colleagues. We have started to look into

various aspects of this broad field such as: working with teachers/parents of hyperactive children, helping teachers deal with bullying and extremely aggressive students in class, working with gifted students, developing teaching techniques for under-achieving students, helping teachers deal with burn-out and frustration, helping teachers work with "difficult" students/parents, etc. Are you

somehow involved in any kind of work that is related in some way to education – please make contact. We would like to start communicate and see how we can mutually enhance our activity.

Please write to me at:  
<isgta.nurith@gmail.com>

Welcome,  
*Nurith*

## GPO (Gestalt Practitioner in Organizations)

I start with a little bit of history. During the conference in Stockholm 2001 some Gestalt educated participants, who mainly work as organisational experts, career counsellors or -coaches, expressed their wish to become an ordinary member of EAGT as (now called) GPO.

During the Prague conference, 3 years later, an OD group was formed initiated by *Daan van Baalen*. On paper this group still exists. To what extent this group still is active I don't know.

In the starting phase an intensive discussion took place. Daan took the role as chair upon himself and he also wrote and developed the Standard Coaching and OD consultancy for EAGT. In the Second Draft he processed reactions of the OD group.

During the Annual General Meeting in Belgrade 2008 the working group

GPO was founded. Due to circumstances the working group was not able to fulfil their tasks. Besides that Daan expressed he could no longer combine the tasks as chairman of the GPO working group to his other tasks. With endorsement of the Annual General Meeting I took the role as chair of the working group upon me.

I started by forming a new working group. I looked for enthusiastic GPO persons with a wide experience as trainer, entrepreneur or professional. I have found them. The members of the new working group are:

- *Carola Pust* from Germany;
- *Chris Berardi* from Sweden;
- *Frans Meulmeester* from The Netherlands;
- *Panos Vasmatzidis* from Greece;
- *Václav Šneberger* from Czech Republic.

The first meeting of the working

group GPO is scheduled on March 4th and 5th, 2010. During this meeting we make, with regards to all tasks, an action plan with timeline whereby each member of the group will be responsible for a part of the tasks.

A preview: The first task of the working group is to compare the educational programme of Gestalt Akademin, Sweden, for Gestalt Practitioners with the Second draft of Standards Coaching and OD consultancy for the EAGT.

When the education programme of Gestalt Akademin is comparable with the EAGT Second Draft, or even at a higher level, then the road will be open for direct membership of EAGT. We are looking forward to get started.

*Bas Lokerse*  
Chair working group

*“At the deepest level of Being, you are one with all that is.  
To be free of time is to be free of the psychological need of past for your identity and future for your fulfilment.  
Life is now. There was never a time when your life was not now, nor will there ever be.”*

*Eckhart Tolle (in The Power of Now)*

# Reports from European Countries

## Lithuania

*Rytis Arturas Stelingis*  
President of LGA

In March of 2009 Lithuanian Gestalt Association (LGA) has entered a new stage of development: LGA has been accredited as NOGT according to the level of EAGT.

Lithuanian Gestalt Association was founded in April of 1998 and since September of 2000 a member of EAGT. At the moment LGA has 51 members and this is quite a big number having in mind that the population number of Lithuania is 3 million people. All members of LGA are students or graduates of Gestalt Studies Center of Kaunas which is the main Gestalt training Institute in Lithuania.

We are a quite active and lively organization with strong community sense. Every year we organise an annual conference (April 25th we had the 12th conference of LGA), annual summer camps, personal growth groups - every two weeks all the year round (this is nonstop lasting for already 12 years!), some workshops and issuing yearly a newsletter.

LGA Training Standards are since 2000 the same as the Training Standards of EAGT. This is a high level of training requirement especially considering that fact that In Lithuania we do not have law of psychotherapy and general national training standards for psychotherapeutic education. This means that in the field of psychotherapy and Gestalt therapy as well are working specialists with different background and level of psychotherapeutic training.

In order to have clear boundaries between different levels of Gestalt training education we have established two different categories of qualification (with issuing National Gestalt certificate) and therefore we have three different categories of LGA members according EAGT training standards:

- 1) Certified Gestalt therapist/psychotherapist;
- 2) Certified Gestalt counsellor;
- 3) Not certified LGA Members.

We are looking optimistically to the future and hope that a closer cooperation

with EAGT will be productive for both sides as well as helping to promote and develop Gestalt therapy in Lithuania.

## Switzerland

*Dieter Bongers*  
Representative for SVG

The Swiss national organization for gestalt therapy is an old one; it exists more than 25 years. But there was never a real Swiss training institute, there were always German, French and sometimes American trainers doing the work in Switzerland.

The last years the scene diminished, fewer groups are existing, but there is still an active scene.

In 2010 we will organize the second time a series "Gestaltwerkstatt" (workshops on Gestalt) for reaching our members and a bigger group of interested people to share our experiences in daily work.

There will be a workshop on Conflict solving, on Eating Disorders (Adipostas) on Male Identity and some others. We hope to get new friends in that way and come back more lively to the 2010 Conference in Berlin.

## Belgium:

*Daniel Collet-Cassart*  
Representative for SBG

The Société Belge de Gestalt (SBG) representing the French speaking Gestaltists of Belgium is organizing for 2010 a one-day meeting related to the meaning of sickness ("Le Sens de la maladie") with a Gestalt point of view.

This meeting will take place Thursday April 29 at the Clinic Cesar de Paepe (Brussels). The morning will be devoted to full conferences and the afternoon to workshops.

Lecturers and participants will include *Jean-Marie Delacroix*, psychologist and Gestalt Therapist from France, Dr *Jean-Marie Gauthier*, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, teaching at the university of Liège and specialized in psychosomatic troubles and Dr *Françoise Poot*, dermatologist and system therapist. People of the European countries who would like to participate to the meeting can contact *Daniel Collet-Cassart*, representative of the French speaking gestaltists of Belgium to the EAGT for more information.

*"In the practice of tolerance, one's enemy is the best teacher."*

*Dalai Lama*

## Austria

*Beatrix Wimmer*

Representative for ÖVG

2009 was again a busy, productive and nourishing year for the ÖVG. In our contribution for the last EAGT Newsletter, we reported about all our activities held until March. Now I will describe what happened during the rest of the year.

In May 2009 *Nancy Amendt-Lyon* spoke about „Einzigartigkeit und Sterblichkeit im Film “Harold and Maude” (Uniqueness and Mortality in the movie “Harold and Maude”).

Summertime was filled with paperwork; our training and recognition commission examined all training papers of all our ordinary members in accordance to the training standards of the EAGT in order for the ÖVG to apply for ordinary membership as a NOGT within the EAGT.

That was a lot of work and finally we could present our work at the EAGT General Meeting in Berlin. I would like to thank *Nancy Amendt-Lyon*, *Leo Kröll*, *Bernhard Thosold* and myself for that!

September was a creative month, we invented the ÖVG-Newsletter, similar to the EAGT Newsletter, as a means of information for all Gestalt therapists in Austria about what is going on in the EAGT and ÖVG.

October gave us the pleasure of welcoming *Frank Staemmler* with his book presentation: “Das Geheimnis des anderen - Empathie in der Psychotherapie: Wie Therapeuten und Klienten einander verstehen.“

(The Other’s Secret - Empathy in Psychotherapy. How therapists and clients understand each other.).

For our November Jour fix a panel has been organized in cooperation with FSIGT/ÖAGG and OIIP. “Krise des Neoliberalismus – Psychotherapeutische und Sozialwissenschaftliche

Perspektiven.“ (“The Crisis of Neo-Liberalism: Perspectives from Psychotherapy and Social Sciences”)

Participants:

Univ. Prof. *Hans-Peter Dreitzel*, Sociologist and Gestalt therapist *Rolf Merten*, Gestalt therapist MMag. Dr. *Gabriele Michalitsch*, Economist and Political Scientist.

Moderator: A.O. Univ. Prof. Dr. *Otmar Höll*.

And once more we are very happy to have Gianni Francesetti in Vienna, leading a workshop about “Panic attacks and Post-modernity: Gestalt therapy between clinical and social perspectives” in November.

Our plans are made until 2010, at which time we are looking forward to welcoming *Peter Heintl* again, in June, and *Achim Votsmeier-Röhr* in November, for workshops.

*Heide Anger* and *Beatrix Wimmer* are cooperating with the DVG and SVG on the 3rd Three-German-Language-Countries-Conference dedicated to *Paul Goodman* in Vienna (November 11th-13th, 2011) and representatives of the FSIGT/ÖAGG are cooperating with the organizing committee. We had a meeting with *Susan Goodman* from New York (Paul Goodman’s daughter, and a psychologist and Gestalt therapist herself), and also with her family in Vienna, which was a great pleasure for us. We are looking forward to inviting her to our conference!

With the best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Netherlands & Flemish Belgium

*Jack van Liesdonk*

President NVAGT

We are trying to make gestalt more present in society. We try that because we believe in the power of the gestalt approach. When gestalt is more known, we think we can add something to the health care. A second goal is to support our members to make a living as a gestalt therapist. In the Netherlands and in Belgium gestalt therapists are not a part of the regular health care. We are called “alternatives”.

The NVAGT has published a book about Gestalt Practice. It is written by 25 gestaltists during the last 3 years. It is written to provide in an overall book for interested gestalt and other psychotherapists. The publisher is a well known publisher for learning books for psychologists and the medical field. It is a product of working together with the focus on the content, to present gestalt to a broader field. In the university psychology training, there is very little known about gestalt. In a few months there are at least 250 copies sold. We are curious about the interest in psy-

chology training institutes.

In the Netherlands we work together with other “alternative” modalities of psychotherapy in the Dutch Association of Psychotherapy (NAP, the national organization of the EAP). The NAP asked the Leiden University to make a comparison between the training standard of a regular health psychologist and the ECP standards. The conclusion was, that the training standards are equal. There was a difference in emphasis on theoretical training in health psychology and more personal training in the ECP training. The personal training includes supervision and practical training.

We are glad with that independent conclusion. It gives us a fine argument to the insurance companies for an equal declaration of costs. We are trying to put the NAP in a position to negotiate for all the “alternative” modalities. In this new position it is important that gestalt therapists are in the board of NAP and I think we have a good board member in the person of Theo Gielis.

## Norway

*Ida Wadel*, President NGF

Hello and greetings to all of you I met in Berlin in September.

In Norway autumn is giving way to winter, an icy wind bringing snow and freezing temperatures.

### 20th Jubilee

The Norwegian association (NGF) is currently preparing to celebrate its first 20 years of existence. On Saturday 21 November our members are invited to a seminar and Jubilee party. In the seminar we use our own members to inspire and motivate through talks and mini-workshops. NGF will also present the progress we have made through our participation in Saborg and dialogue with the authorities, and take a look at the road ahead.

An enthusiastic party committee has reserved one of Oslo’s best venues where members can enjoy Tapas and wine, live music and dance. Bookings are flowing in and we look forward to a great event.

### Pilot project

At last year’s AGM we introduced a pilot CPD (Continuing Professional Development) programme. It means that all members need 30 hours CPD during 2009. Ten

of these must be gestalt therapeutic; the remaining 20 can also be other forms of psychotherapy from 5 categories inspired by the EAP model.

We are getting some feedback from members and see that we will need to adjust both the categories and the number of hours at the next AGM. Our dilemma: what to recognise as psychotherapy that isn't gestalt, and how members living in rural areas, far from the nearest counsellor, can fulfil their 30 hours. We are also being asked if 10 hours of gestalt therapy is enough - maybe it should be more. Members will submit their CPD form at the end of the year and the board will evaluate the pilot and propose our next steps at the AGM in March.

What else?

Unfortunately one of our board members had to stand down due to ill health. This means extra work for the board, and I am grateful that the remaining board members are enthusiastic and involved.

We are also planning for 2010, and as always we invite gestalt therapists from abroad to hold workshops in connection with our AGM, on March 12th. In the autumn of 2010 we will also hold workshops in both northern and southern Norway, in addition to Oslo. This is a pilot project, both financially and in terms of member's interest. So, including the EAGT conference in September, we will see plenty of action in 2010.

## United Kingdom

*Lynda Osborne, Chair of UKAGT*

In the UK we are in the ongoing process of statutory regulation of psychologists, counsellors and psychotherapists. The psychologists have already been regulated by the Government.

Our recent election of a new Chair for our national organisation for all psychotherapists is Professor *Andrew Samuels*. He has led a growing number of psychotherapists who are unhappy with the way this process is taking shape. We will now wait to see what this change of Chair means in practice for ongoing discussions with the Government.

## Greece

*Maria Ioannidou*

Representative for HAGT

Hellenic Association for Gestalt Therapy has finally a new Executive Board, after a series of unsuccessful efforts to collect the necessary number of candidates for the national elections. The new Board has posted the following significant goals:

To continue and complete the mission of the previous Boards in the next year concerning the establishment of basic operation procedures, such as Code of Ethics, Complaints Procedure, new statute.

To draw the attention and win back the interest of the members of our NOGT, modulating a more extravert profile and making its presence noticeable in the framework of Greek Psychotherapy field.

During the Annual General Meeting that took place a few weeks ago we set the basis for the accomplishment of these goals and in an atmosphere full of consent, mutual support and dialogue we unanimously decided the continuation of the H.A.G.T.'s activities and the upgrade of its qualitative characteristics. Furthermore, we discussed the issue of our NOGT's expansion in order to incorporate Gestalt Practitioners in Organizations. For this purpose there was appointed a special Committee, which has the task to explore this issue and the existing possibilities, in collaboration with EAGT and other National Organizations.

It is for us a double folded achievement:

On the professional level it makes for a solid, meaningful recognition of Gestalt Therapy as such (Israel still lacks a lawful regulation of psychotherapy) and sets a very distinguished standard of training and ethical guidelines. Thanks to this accreditation we hope to be recognized in the future also at home as one of the modalities of psychotherapy and not as an esoteric sect.

The other level is political (you must know that in Israel everything is political, and everybody is prime minister in disguise...). Our national position is again under heavy critics, with allegations and accusations that are hard to sustain even if they are partly justified. Some of you may be aware that various leading academic circles in Europe, turn a cold shoulder to their Israeli colleagues and vote against further cooperation in research and implementation of common projects.

While I can very well understand the reason of these sanctions, I am proud to be a member of EAGT that does not mix its professional decisions with political



## Israel

*Nurith Levi*

Board member of ISGTA

The Israeli Association for Gestalt Therapy (ISGTA) accepted with satisfaction its accreditation as an ordinary NOGT member and sends a message of gratitude and friendship to the board and all members and committees as well as to the NOGTs as the Institutes that make up the essence of EAGT.

considerations. The fact that EAGT as an organization is aware of the need to recruit our skills to contribute in the field of social responsibility and human rights and tries to become actively involved in some projects makes the mere belonging to this community even more adequate, since we as a NOGT must keep in mind these two aspects of what it means to be an ordinary member of EAGT. This will be very challenging.

In November we will be voting for a new board of ISGTA, that will lead the association into the next four coming years. The first mission of this board will be by giving a push to the process of accreditation of personal members, which, I believe, will soon be noted by more Israelis becoming members of EAGT.

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."*

*Mother Theresa*

# Thirty years of the Gestalt Centre London

Thirty years old!

That is a mature age, for what looks to me a mature organisation, and one which has had its childhood, and survived and adapted to and resisted the context of four decades, from the last of the seventies, through the growing materialism and Me Me culture of the next three.

I grope back to grope back to the misty childhood days of the Centre, based in *Ursula Fausset's* house in Hampstead London NW3, which is the same postcode as *Freud's* London home and workplace. That seems appropriate enough. Though perhaps the motives of disciples going to either address would have been different. They would have gone to Freud as patients, where in 1979 people went to Ursula's as much for mini-satori and satori, for personal enlightenment, as for professional training. Mattresses sound-proofed connecting walls, as I remember, and fees were kept in a teapot. Openness was a new and shattering value. Goodman's communitas values were implicit and nurturing.

And then the zeitgeist beckoned to training for therapists, rather than just Doing Gestalt. I talk about what happened for The Centre and in general at that time. Formalisation, professionalisation, leading to closed-shopperry and the furore around statutory regulation, began around then. Farewell childhood and its virtues. Spontaneity, please jump up from behind that Code of Ethics.

The first move was to a couple of rooms near Old Street Tube and an organic food shop. *John Leary Joyce*, *Judith Leary Tanner* and *Peggy Sherno* were the first directors of this first training. This was a growing up. From living with the mother-figure, to having three parents, must have had an impact on everyone's mindset. More than that, academic requirements were imposed, diplomas awarded, and an arrangement was made with a Danish training, to exchange students and teachers. This was the begin-

ning of the multi-culturalism which is part of the context of any training now, and a striking part of the training itself at the Gestalt Centre, where there are sometimes as many nationalities as students in any one seminar. Not so fast.

We are still in the eighties, remember, when there was little writing on Gestalt beyond the mid-twentieth century texts, and when Exeter University's British Gestalt Conference was a daring innovation. A Gestalt Conference! A conference just about Gestalt! I spend time now begging people to spare the planet and stop racing round the world to the myriad damn things.

From the first, The Gestalt Centre gave formal training in both individual and group therapy, and in group behaviour. The argument was that to ignore the group was to ignore the field; to understand how the group modifies the person and vice versa, is to gain political as well as personal education. Even before the counselling training department came into being, the Centre instituted an annual Residential for all students and all staff, where the rigours of the large group could be experienced and learned from. This now vast event has migrated to a hotel in Bournemouth large enough to contain the whole institute, plus well-wishers who arrive for the graduation dinner.

The Centre has, like any responsible training, needed to be a learning organisation, educating staff as well as students, overtly in such matters as large group process, less obviously but to my eye very effectively in holding the values of awareness, listening and goodwill exemplified by the first leaders. The present Centre Manager, *Jacqueline Wearn*, has in recent years exemplified these personal and professional values to the point that The Centre feels like a dependable and respected home to students and ex-students.

Running trainings and short courses; administering a low-cost therapy clinic;

dealing with the ever more complex demands of an accrediting University; keeping the faculty informed and involved; liaising between CEO and Department Heads; maintaining diversity and creativity; all these face the Centre, as all trainings, with the puzzle of how to avoid impersonality and bureaucratisation. The current furore about statutory regulation of the profession calls for skills beyond the therapeutic. By November 13th 2010, when The Centre has invited The British Gestalt Journal to help it celebrate its thirtieth birthday, a lease will have run out and premises will have changed again.

There is much in the field to sap energy as well as inspire it. And The Centre is to be congratulated for maintaining not only high skills and academic standards, but a steady and harmonious presence in the changing world of psychotherapy.

There is a saying, that any man of forty is a fool or a physician: there is reason to have enough self-knowledge by then to minister appropriately to yourself, or seek help. An organisation is in some ways more complex than one person. But I have the sense that The Gestalt Centre London, by the age of merely thirty, has the internal good sense to be able to anticipate a long healthy life. Or so I truly wish it.

*Gaie Houston*

MA Oxon Dip. B.Sc. Emeritus Adviser of The Gestalt Centre London.

# Lost in Transformation?

As you all know by now the topic on the 10th EAGT Conference is 'Lost in transformation?'. The German organizers DVG are working hard and sometimes they feel like they are lost in transformation by all the hard work they already have done and all the work they are still facing.

Who wouldn't get lost in transformation? As already written in the foreword of a previous flyer the question „Lost in transformation?” is provocative and will give good stimuli to discuss the limits of transforming concepts, mixing them with other concepts and integrating other developments in and outside gestalt therapy, based on progresses in sciences (i.e. emotion research, brain research) or connecting with different ways of spiritualism and transpersonal psychology (as it happened i.e. in Esalen, when Fritz left from there and *Stanislaw Grof* increased his influence).

„*There is no end on integration*”, okay till so far. But on what background do we integrate? How is it surrounded by social and political environments? What philosophical, ethical and political implication and which effect do such „integrations” cause on the image of humanity? I think it is a good moment to ask such questions, in order **not** to get lost in transformation. Gestalt therapy, developed by *Fritz* and *Laura Perls*, *Paul Goodman* and *Ralph Hefferline* had a clear identity and was part of the human potential movement in America. What has happened to the strength of the Humanistic therapies as the third force in psychotherapy, with the aim of re-humanizing society (and psychiatry)? Where are the limits between changing, integrating, growing and losing identity? I'm sure this conference topic will guarantee a lot of good and important presentations, panels, workshops and discussions. **Join it, give your contribution, and go into the dialogue, and... let's meet!**

Back to being 'lost in transforma-



tion' of the organizers DVG, they look forward in meeting you all in great numbers though there is still a lot of work to be done. But let's look of what they already have done to make you enthusiastic to meet with them in September 2010:

They went online with a beautiful website at [www.gestalt2010.eu](http://www.gestalt2010.eu). It is written in the German and English language. It has an online application form to make it all easy for you (use the Tab button to go from one field to another);

They have made flyers and application forms and they were sent via e-mail; Recently you have received a preview on the programme via e-mail. Many workshops/presentations/panels/mini-lectures are listed on the programme. Therefore we can only conclude the interest in the 10th conference is huge and we can only welcome that!

While presenting you all the good and enthusiastic news it came to our attention that we, the German organiser DVG and EAGT, stepped unintentionally on toes because the dates of the conference (9–12 September 2010) are at the same when Rosj Hasjana, Jewish New year, is (9–10 September 2010) held. We neglected to check this when establishing the dates of the conference. We humbly apologize for making this

mistake and we understand the need for some people to not attending the conference due to this mistake. However, due to the fact everything is already in process we cannot arrange other dates for the conference, but perhaps the organisers DVG and EAGT can make arrangements in Berlin to celebrate Rosj Hasjana in the restored New Synagogue on Oranienburger Straße in the middle of Berlin. We will chew on this. It has at least our serious attention.

Nevertheless, we think Berlin is a good place to have this conference. *Fritz Perls* was born in Berlin and lived 40 years in this town (1893-1933). It's still underestimated how this period of his life, the contemporary spirit in this town, the social, cultural, philosophical and political background have enriched and influenced him, Laura and gestalt therapy. Let's take this conference as chances to (re-)discover these roots and backgrounds of gestalt therapy.

I thank the German Association for Gestalt therapy (DVG) as organizers of this conference for all the work, risks and enthusiasm they put into this project, which projects like this also need.

I invite you all to come to Berlin and make this conference to a great success!

*Peter Schulthess*, President EAGT

# EAGT Membership 2009

## New Individual Members

<i>Julija Pelc</i>	SLOVENIA
<i>Bodil Stranden Riise</i>	NORWAY
<i>Ljiljana Milačak</i>	BOSNIA&HERZEGOVINA
<i>Elma Maljević</i>	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
<i>Jeanette Petrini</i>	SWEDEN
<i>Lannie Peyton</i>	GERMANY
<i>Franco Gnudi</i>	ITALY
<i>Lidija Gjokik</i>	MACEDONIA
<i>Maja Korubin</i>	MACEDONIA
<i>Jose Bijker</i>	THE NETHERLANDS
<i>Gwenda vd Vuurst-de Graaf</i>	THE NETHERLANDS
<i>Maria Belovari</i>	AUSTRIA
<i>Jacek Marszalek</i>	POLAND
<i>Miroslawa Marszalek</i>	POLAND
<i>Ewa Canert-Łaka</i>	POLAND
<i>Sergey Kondurov</i>	RUSSIA
<i>Tatiana Polomoshnova</i>	RUSSIA
<i>Natalya Maksimova</i>	RUSSIA
<i>Irina Kolomic</i>	RUSSIA
<i>Marijana Markovik</i>	MACEDONIA
<i>Karolina Kostadinovska Lembanova</i>	MACEDONIA
<i>Andromahi Naumovska</i>	MACEDONIA
<i>Ana Poprizova</i>	MACEDONIA
<i>Beatrix Wimmer</i>	AUSTRIA

<i>Luka Marinović</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Ružica Petrović</i>	SLOVENIA	OM
<i>Snezana Andreeva</i>	MACEDONIA	AM
<i>Henk Deckers</i>	THE NETHERLANDS	OM
<i>Bertil Jansma</i>	THE NETHERLANDS	OM
<i>Amit Sen</i>	SWEDEN	OM
<i>Jeanne Boyaval</i>	FRANCE	OM
<i>Malin Norrvi</i>	SWEDEN	OM
<i>Lars Berg</i>	SWEDEN	OM

## New GPO member

<i>Seán Gaffney</i>	SWEDEN
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## Altered membership status for NOGTs

<i>Israeli Gestalt Therapy Association (ISGTA)</i>	ISRAEL	OM
<i>Österreichische Vereinigung für Gestalttherapie (ÖVG)</i>	AUSTRIA	OM

## New Training Institute(s):

<i>Institut für Integrative Gestalttherapie (IGW)</i>	GERMANY	CM
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## Abbreviations explained:

OM = Ordinary Membership (formerly called full membership)

AM = Associate Membership

OM : GPO = Gestalt Practitioner in Organisations

## GESTALT TRAINING IN ISRAEL (Formerly Isragic) At the Maagan Holiday village, by the sea of Gallilee January 31 - February 5, 2010

**We are offering** the 20th class in Gestalt foundations, taught by our faculty of Gestalt trainers, all EAGT members. We offer an intensive Gestalt personal and professional learning experience with our international community at the heart of the beautiful Kineret, the Sea of Gallilee. The Training Program is in modules, each of 6 days intensive week, twice a year, February and July.

We emphasize a high level of professional training, together with experiential and personal-growth processes. Participants who complete modules A and B in the foundations of the Gestalt approach are invited to continue and deepen their knowledge and skills in additional areas of application:

Gestalt Group Work, Couples and Small Teams, Body-Process, and modules about specific intervention forms such as The Gestalt Experiment & Dialogue or Working With Unfinished Business.

The Training Program is international and in English, as participants and teachers come both from Israel and abroad. Completing 5 modules (300 hours) awards the participant a Certificate of Completion of the Foundation Program.

**Faculty of the Training** is drawn from: *Lester Wyman*, PhD, *Hanna Scherler*, PhD, *Yona Weiss*, PhD, *Tali Mirkin*, MA, *Arye Bursztyn*, MA, *Yaacov Kaiser*, MA and other distinguished guest trainers from Israel and abroad.

**For more details contact** [www.isragic.org](http://www.isragic.org)

In U.S.A.: Les Wyman [leswyman@TheForeSightGroup.org](mailto:leswyman@TheForeSightGroup.org)

In Europe: Hanna Scherler [hanna@superonline.com](mailto:hanna@superonline.com)

In Israel: Arye Bursztyn [aryeb@013.net.il](mailto:aryeb@013.net.il)

# Annual General Meeting, Belgrade

September 13th, 2008

Minutes made by Ester Neumanová & Marga Berends

## LIST OF THOSE PRESENT:

### MEMBERS:

<i>Sibylle Ahlbrecht</i>	Germany
<i>Daan van Baalen</i>	Norway
<i>Joppie Bakker</i>	The Netherlands Chair Ethics Committee
<i>Lilijana Bozovic</i>	Serbia
<i>Sanja Bratina</i>	Serbia
<i>Branka Dostanić</i>	Serbia
<i>Tomaz Flajs</i>	Slovenia also repr. & voting for GITA/SLOGES
<i>Gianni Francesetti</i>	Italy
<i>Dragana Ilić</i>	Serbia
<i>Dusanka Jovanovic</i>	Serbia
<i>Guus Klaren</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Nurith Levi</i>	Israel
<i>Dick Lompa</i>	The Netherlands also repr. & voting for NSG
<i>Faye Page</i>	United Kingdom also repr. & voting for BGS
<i>Lidija Pecotic</i>	Malta also repr. & voting for GPTIM/GS-B
<i>Marina Pjescic</i>	Serbia
<i>Glenn D. Rolfsen</i>	Norway
<i>Marija Stefanovic</i>	Serbia also representing & voting for JUGT
<i>Emilija Stoimenova Canevska</i>	Macedonia
<i>Sina Triantafyllou</i>	Greece
<i>Carmen Vazquez Bandin</i>	Spain also representing & voting for CTP/AETG
<i>Ivana Vidaković</i>	Serbia
<i>Christof Weber</i>	Germany also representing & voting for DVG
<i>Ester Neumanova</i>	Czech Republic also repr. & voting for IVGT
<i>Ewa Canert Laka</i>	Poland representing & voting for PSPP
<i>Gianni Francesetti</i>	Italy also representing & voting for SIPG
<i>Chris Berardi</i>	Sweden representing & voting for SAG
<i>Günther Ditzelmüller</i>	Austria representing & voting for ÖAGG
<i>Daan van Baalen</i>	Norway also representing & voting for NGI
<i>Glenn Rolfsen</i>	Norway also representing & voting for NGF
<i>Jack van Liesdonk</i>	The Netherlands repr. & voting for NVAGT
<i>Dieter Bongers</i>	Switzerland also representing & voting for SVG
<i>Nifont Dolgopolov</i>	Russia representing & voting for ARG1

### VISITORS:

<i>Nataša Ognjanović</i>	Serbia
<i>Jelena Želeskov Dorić</i>	Serbia

and another person, with an unknown identity for the office manager

### OFFICERS:

<i>Ken Evans</i>	President	United Kingdom
<i>Peter Schulthess</i>	Vice President & Chair TSC	Switzerland
<i>Katia Hatzilakou</i>	External Relations & Chair NOGT's	Greece
<i>Ester Neumanová</i>	Secretary	Czech Republic
<i>Bas Lokerse</i>	Treasurer	The Netherlands
<i>Marga Berends</i>	Office manager	The Netherlands

### APOLOGIES:

<i>Paul Chardon</i>	The Netherlands
<i>Lynda Osborne</i>	United Kingdom
<i>Greet Cassiers</i>	Belgium
<i>Ernst Knijff</i>	Belgium
<i>Serge Ginger</i>	France
<i>Joanna Hewitt Evans</i>	United Kingdom

### AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Members present
- Minutes of last meeting (Athens)
- Matters arising
- Reports of:
  - President
  - Vice-president & Chair of TSC
  - Treasurer
  - External Relations & Chair NOGT's officer
  - Secretary
  - Chair of Ethics
- Reports from Special Committees:
  - Organisations,
  - Education and Children,
  - Human Rights & Social Responsibility
  - Fundraising Committee
- Voting on:
  - Elections of presidents & officers
  - Reconfirm complaints committee for further 5 years
  - Supervision debate: vote on proposal Tomaz Flajs
  - Voting on revised accreditation procedure paper
  - Voting on revised code of Ethics
- Joint membership NVAGT-EAGT
- Organisational membership fee for Cooperative membership
- Voting on: Change(s) in statutes:
  - Termination membership
  - Complaints committee
  - Date and place next AGM (2009)
- AOB

## 1. WELCOME

Ken Evans welcomes all those present.

## 2. MEMBERS PRESENT

See above list.

## 2A. OPENING

*Ken Evans* opens the meeting by welcoming all present.

## 3. MINUTES OF LAST AGM, ATHENS, SEPTEMBER 2007

Minutes were correct and unanimously approved.

Ken explains that only those who are members can vote and they have voting cards.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Ken Evans proposes to add items to the agenda which were not yet on the published agenda. This was unanimously approved. It concerns the following items:

Consider reinstating the office of TSC chair into the Executive Committee (EC);

Look again at the length of time how long an officer can stay in the EC.

## 5. REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

### 5A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (*Ken Evans*)

Since the Athens Conference our work was as usual. Many people contacted Marga, and a lot of work has been done by email. In February the EC and the General Board (GB) met in London which was an important matter because in the UK the NOGT was in the process of establishing and it helped that EAGT officers were there. The meeting established successfully a NOGT of UK.

Psychotherapy as a profession (Ken was engaged in this) and EAGT comes across a very good way in this process. Compared to other modalities we have done very well! I am a part of a team of as well the EC and the GB and over the last 6 years we built a modern framework for Training Standards and accreditation. A massive amount of work



was done. EAGT can be an example for other modalities how to create standards and the accreditation procedure.

As a team we created a more democratic frame for EAGT. The GB is open to every country. We have one office which is centred in the Netherlands.

EAGT's challenges for the future are: Evolve the relationship between NOGTs and EAGT (we built a new house and we have to learn how to live together in it);

We need research. In many countries it is a weapon to undermine a modality when a state regulates psychotherapy. The Training Institute has to be taken seriously and bring research methods into curricula. Research can be sexy! Qualitative research in psychotherapy.

We need to support future generations; young people, new trainers and training programs for trainers.

We will go to a greater tolerance among institutes.

Ken thanks all officers for their commitment.

### 5B. CHAIR TSC AND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT (*Peter Schulthess*)

Peter starts with his activities as vice president: he represents EAGT in EAP and there were 3 meetings in different countries. EAGT got reaccredited as EWAO for the next period. Peter informs all EC members about these meetings.

The European Wide Organisation Committee (EWOC) issues about accrediting new approaches.

Peter is also a member of a pool of

experts for the Training institute Accreditation Committee (TAC). Some institutes are accredited by EAGT and EAP and some only by EAGT.

With *Serge Ginger* there is a good cooperation and all applications of Gestalt Therapy go through EAGT.

EAP created a task group so that psychotherapy can become an independent profession. This task group differentiates between psychotherapy, psychology and psychiatry and to

define the identity of psychotherapy.

Peter also is seated in a task group for joint membership between EAGT and NVAGT. This committee had 2 meetings.

Peter's role as chair of the Training standards Committee:

The committee decided the accredited the following Institutes:

- *Fachsektion für Integrative Gestalttherapie Ö.A.G.G. (FS IGT OAGG)*, Austria
- *Gestalt Studio Belgrade*, Serbia
- *Gestalt Institute Skopje*, Macedonia
- *Riga Gestalt Institute RGI*, Latvia
- *Center of Therapy and Psychology (CTP)*, Spain
- *Instytut Integralnej Psychoterapii Gestalt (IIPG)*, Poland
- *The Gestalt Academy in Scandinavia*, Sweden
- *GIS International*, Denmark

At this moment 23 institutes are accredited and many of them were also accredited by EAP. EAGT grows in the number of institutes. New Training Institutes are invited to go through the accrediting procedure. Of the current list of Training Institutes some did not want to go through the accreditation procedure and therefore they became as cooperative members. There are 9 Training Institutes in associate membership

The Training Standards procedure has to be revised and this will be done in this meeting.

It is a good feeling to step down from the Training Standards Committee. Many accreditations were done and Peter thanks his colleagues.

**5C. TREASURER** (*Bas Lokerse*)

Bas' report is supported by a Power Point presentation which was prepared by Marga. A brief overview:

EAGT is growing.

The Executive committee succeeded to reduce costs.

More costs were spent on designing and printing flyers and certificates, but also on postage due to re-registration and sending out 2 Newsletters.

The income and expenditures of 2007 were almost the same.

There is a small amount of members who did not yet pay their membership fee.

**5D. EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER & CHAIRS NOGT'S** (*Katia Hatzilakou*)

Katia Hatzilakou expresses her thanks for the cooperation with the General Board. She started her work after the London meetings. She also supports her report with a Power Point presentation.

At the moment EAGT has 21 NOGTs. Some of them are in process of becoming ordinary members.

Katia announces that EAGT will reserve web space for NOGTs to announce the organisations of conferences.

Katia in her role as an external officer has not anything special to say except that Nancy Amend Lyon proposed – during the last annual general meeting – that something could be said on TV like an advertisement on the TV on human base that has to apply with the spirit of EAGT.

**5E. REPORT OF SECRETARY** (*Ester Neumanova*)

Ester reports her work as a secretary which becomes more smooth because of the accredited Training Institutes.

**5F. REPORT OF ETHICS COMMITTEE** (*Joppie Bakker*)

The committee has checked 12 ethical codes of organizations. Joppie would like to make the work more sexy. There has been some correspondence with SLOGES, due to a possible complaint, and the committee has to be careful and

cannot be judging. With regards to the complaint procedure, Joppie informs us there are not any complaints at the moment.

After the coffee break *Ivana Vidakovic* is asked to come forward by *Ken Evans*. Ken is thanking Ivana for her excellent organisation of the meeting!

**6. REPORT FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:****6A. GESTALT PRACTITIONER IN ORGANIZATIONS (GPO)** *Daan van Baalen*, chair of committee.

GPO is achieved by a grand parenting procedure. Currently EAGT has practitioners in Belgium, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Norway. The basic training of practitioners is Gestalt Therapy. Some organisations do both trainings, as well therapy training as GPO training.

The grand parenting procedure continues and one can contact *Daan van Baalen* or *Chris Berardi*. If a country has several practitioners they will visit the country for the grand parenting procedure.

It is a big task of this committee and the committee needs to be more connected with the board. Daan asks for more members to join the committee, any volunteers?

**6B. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE** (*Nurith Levi*)

Nurith invites whoever is interested to join the committee or to be in contact with her.

**6C. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE** (*Ken Evans*)

Ken reports he is stepping down as chair of the committee and that *Guus Klaren* is the new chair of this committee.

*Peter Schulthess* informs about the organization – Peace Brigades International (PBI) – providing volunteer work in countries that went through conflicts whereby volunteers came traumatized back. EAGT can come into cooperation with this organization and provide them also voluntarily support (supervision...)

Guus is glad and enthusiastic to take over the job. He wants the committee to be very active and to contact PBI to find out the real need this organisation needs and make a project of it.

Another project of the committee is the Israeli conference which was cancelled in 2006 because of the escalation in Israel. The message was that the conference will be held later. If we want to continue we need to do it on impartial ground/country.

**7. FUND RAISING COMMITTEE** (*Bas Lokerse*)

As treasurer Bas would like to find a model in which in future EAGT can financially support the organisers of a conference if necessary. To financially support the organisers during the organisation of a conference it is necessary to reinforce the financial means of EAGT. The only source of income is membership fee. Accreditation and re-registration are costs-effective and do not bring in a bit of extra cash. Possibilities to raise extra money for EAGT are:

To organise small conferences in between, which will be profitable by their reputation and appealingness;

To acquire actively donations;

To make inquiries about European subsidies;

Issuing shares.

**8. VOTING ON:** (lead by *Ken Evans*)

Hereafter follows the voting concerning elections for a new president and other officers but also a change in the statutes concerning to make it legitimate that the Chair of Training Standards will also become a part of the Executive Committee.

**President** – *Katia Hatzilakou* nominates *Peter Schulthess*, this is seconded by *David Kirk Campbell* (in writing be the sent voting form).

voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

In favour: unanimous

**Training Standards Officer** – *Peter Schulthess* nominates *Gianni Francesetti*,

this is seconded by *Katia Hatzilakou*.

voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

In favour: unanimous

**Member Ethics Committee – Joppie**

*Bakker* nominates *Jan Roubal*, this is seconded by *Lynda Osborne*.

voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

In favour: unanimous

**Member of TSC – Peter Schulthess** nominates *Ken Evans*, seconded by *Daan van Baalen*.

voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

In favour: unanimous

**Confirmation of complaint committee**

– *Gro Skottun*, *Sanela Selmanovic*, *Dick Lompa*.

voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

In favour: unanimous

The Training Standards Committee is a very important job and *Ken Evans* asks to vote on the proposition that the Chair of Training Standards Committee will become a member of the Executive Committee (change in statutes).

**Change in statutes** to make it legitimate that chair of TSC is a member of EC.

voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

In favour: unanimous

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## LUNCH BREAK

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The new president of EAGT, *Peter Schulthess*, opens the afternoon part of meeting.

We will continue on the voting part and we will start with the Supervision debate.

Peter speaks about supervision process according to EAGT Training Standard, below the proposals are listed:

**1) Leave it as it is.**

*Thomas Flajs* proposes to 2) delete sentence describing proportion of hours (individual and group setting), leave it as a self regulation in the Training Institute and do it accordingly to the needs of Training Institute and students. Mention only number of hours.

*Serge Ginger* suggests to 3) leave the amount of hours open and mention that some part of the supervision should be done in an individual setting

*Dick Lompa* and *Ken Evans* are supporting option 2. Ken says that there is no evidence that individual supervision has better results than group supervision. Distribution of hours should be a local matter

*Dieter Bongers* and *Fay Page* support option 3. They believe that some issues cannot be talked about in the group. Each student can decide on his/her own what form of supervision is good for him/her.

*Günther Ditzelmüller* says that an essential part should be done in individual setting and therefore the number of hours does not have to be fixed.

*Jack van Liesdonk* says that the accredited Training Institute should have the possibility to choose the proportion of hours. On behalf of NVAGT he expresses his opinion that the number of hours will be deleted.

*Daan van Baalen* mentions that supervision contains also criticism. In individual supervision people often get therapy rather than supervision. Training Institute should have a kind of control system of supervisors and keep quality.

Peter proposes, after having heard several remarks a new option, number 4. This option is to 4) **make a proportion of 25 hours of individual supervision and 125 hours of group supervision.**

In the different Institutes has been a lively discussion about supervision.

**Voting on option 2 against option 3**

voting:

Against: 19

Abstention: 0

In favour: 60

**Voting on option 2 against option 4**

voting:

Against: 21

Abstention: 0

In favour: 58

**Voting on option 2 against option 1**

voting:

Against: 19

Abstention: 2

In favour: 58

**Option number 2 is accepted by a majority of votes.**

Peter Schulthess will now present the changes in the Training Standards paper through the beamer so everyone can read along and watch all changes. In this case Marga can change immediately the paper if needed. This way the AGM goes through the complete document and will see the changes that were comment upon.

**Voting on proposal of changes in Training Standards document.**

voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 3

In favour: 76

**Revision of the code of ethics** (presented by *Joppie Bakker*)

Joppie states that the complaint procedure shall be paid and she explains that it is a way how to prevent there will be 'non-complaints'.

**Voting on proposal that the complaint is paid.**

voting:

Against: 0

Abstention: 3

In favour: 76

**Joint membership EAGT and NVAGT**

- The Task group works for 3 years and observes the project in practice and then revises and reviews how it worked. Contract was legitimated by NVAGT members and according to this contract both organisations apply the same standards.

**Voting on proposal that the experiment of join membership EAGT – NVAGT starts.**

voting:  
Against: 3  
Abstention: 7  
In favour: 69

**Organization membership fee for Co-operative Members** (presented by *Bas*).  
The voting concerns to have the same fee for cooperative members as for Associate members.

Voting on proposal  
voting:  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 0  
In favour: unanimously

**The presented changes in statutes** (see attachment)

Voting on proposal  
voting:  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 0  
In favour: unanimously

**All organs of the association should be mentioned in Statutes**

Voting on proposal  
voting:  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 0  
In favour: unanimously

**To list the complaints committee in the Statutes**

Voting on proposal  
voting:  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 0  
In favour: unanimously

**The revision in statutes that the Executive committee consists of 5 persons, included is chair of Training Standards**

Voting on proposal  
voting:  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 0  
In favour: unanimously

**An officer can stay in an office for two terms with a maximum of 9 years**

Voting on proposal

voting:  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 0  
In favour: unanimously

**Vice president will be a member of EC and will be appointed by EC**

Voting on proposal  
voting:  
Against: 0  
Abstention: 0  
In favour: unanimously

**9. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT AGM**

The next date for the AGM will be **September 12th, 2009** and will be held in Berlin.

**10. CLOSING MEETING**

Peter Schulthess closes the meetings and thanks all those present for coming.

### **Attachment:**

**Several Statute changes:**

To be voted at the Meeting of Members, September 13th 2008 in Belgrade.

**Section 6: Termination of Membership**  
**Old version:**

1. Membership shall end through striking from the membership list, withdrawal from the Association, exclusion.

a. A member may be struck from the membership list by a resolution of the Executive Committee if, despite having received two written reminders, such member is in arrears with the payment of membership fees or contributions. Striking off may only be resolved upon if, following despatch of a second reminder, two months have elapsed, and striking off was stated in such reminder. The Executive Committee's resolution as to striking off shall be notified to the member.

b. Voluntary withdrawal shall be declared to the Executive Committee in writing, and may take place observing a three-month period of notice with effect from the end of a calendar year. Until the time of withdrawal, the member shall remain under a duty to pay the membership fee.

**To be replaced by:**

1. Membership shall end through withdrawal from the Association, exclusion or death.

a. Voluntary withdrawal shall be declared to the Executive Committee in writing, and may take place observing a three-month period of notice with effect from the end of a calendar year. Until the time of withdrawal, the member shall remain under a duty to pay the membership fee.

b. A member may be struck from the membership list by a resolution of the Executive Committee if, despite having received two written reminders, such member is in arrears with the payment of membership fees or contributions. Striking off may only be resolved upon if, following despatch of a second reminder, two months have elapsed, and striking off was stated in such reminder. The Executive Committee's resolution as to striking off shall be notified to the member. Until the time of exclusion, the member shall remain under a duty to pay the membership fee.

**Explanation:** With the old version 6.1.a) was understood from members that wanted to leave EAGT, that they will not have to pay the membership fee anymore according to 6.1. b).

With this change no such understanding will be possible anymore.

**Section 7: Organs of the association:**

**To be added:** the Complaints Committee

**Explanation:** To avoid discussions about the legitimacy of this Committee in case of a complaint, it is important that it is listed in the statutes as an organ of the association.

**Section 8: The Meeting of Members:**

**Old version:**

4. The ordinary Meeting of Members shall have the following duties:

a. To accept the annual report and the annual accounts of the Executive Committee and the General Board;

- b. To give the members of the Executive Committee and the General Board formal approval in respect of their actions;
- c. To establish new standing committees and task groups;
- d. To establish the annual membership fees;
- e. To resolve upon any changes to the Constitution and dissolution of the Association.



Peter Schulthess, Ester Neumanova and Gianni Francesetti.

**To be added:**

- f. To vote on the Accreditation Regulations of Training Institutes and NOGT's

and on the Ethical Code. They will be revised every 5 years.

**Explanation:** This is an important right of the Meeting of Members, that should be listed here. Until now this is written in the two papers, but not in the statutes.

**Old version:**

6. The Meeting of Members shall elect members of the Executive Committee, via proposals and by a simple majority.

**To be added:** They can be re-elected for two periods (with a maximum of 9 years).

**Explanation:** The Meeting of the Members last year voted for a limit for officers. As the statutes are written now, this limit is valid only for members of the Ethics Committee and the TSC. This is not what the Meeting of Members meant and needs to be adjusted.

Both, Members of the Executive Committee and of other permanent Committee shall be limited in time.

**Old version:**

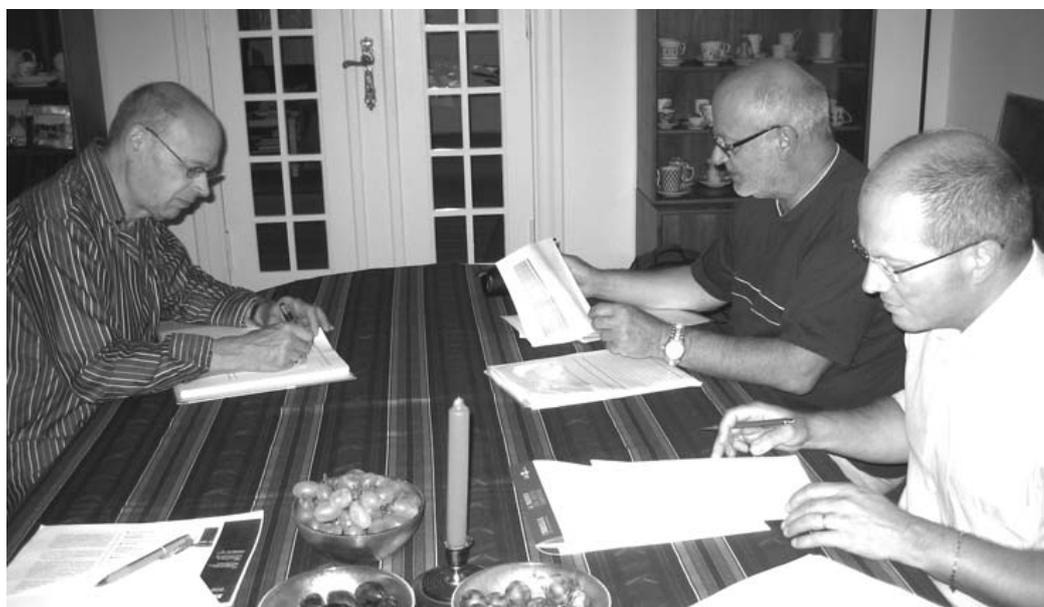
7. The Meeting of Members shall also elect the members and a Chair of the Training Standard Committee and members of the Ethical Committee, every three years. They can be re-elected for two periods (with a maximum of 9 years).

**To be changed in:**

7. The Meeting of Members shall elect members and a Chair of the Training Standard Committee, the Ethical Committee and the Complaints Committee, every three years. They can be re-elected for two periods (with a maximum of 9 years).

**Explanation:** The Complaints Committee needs to be added here, if we list it also as an organ of the association.

1/8/08 Peter Schulthess



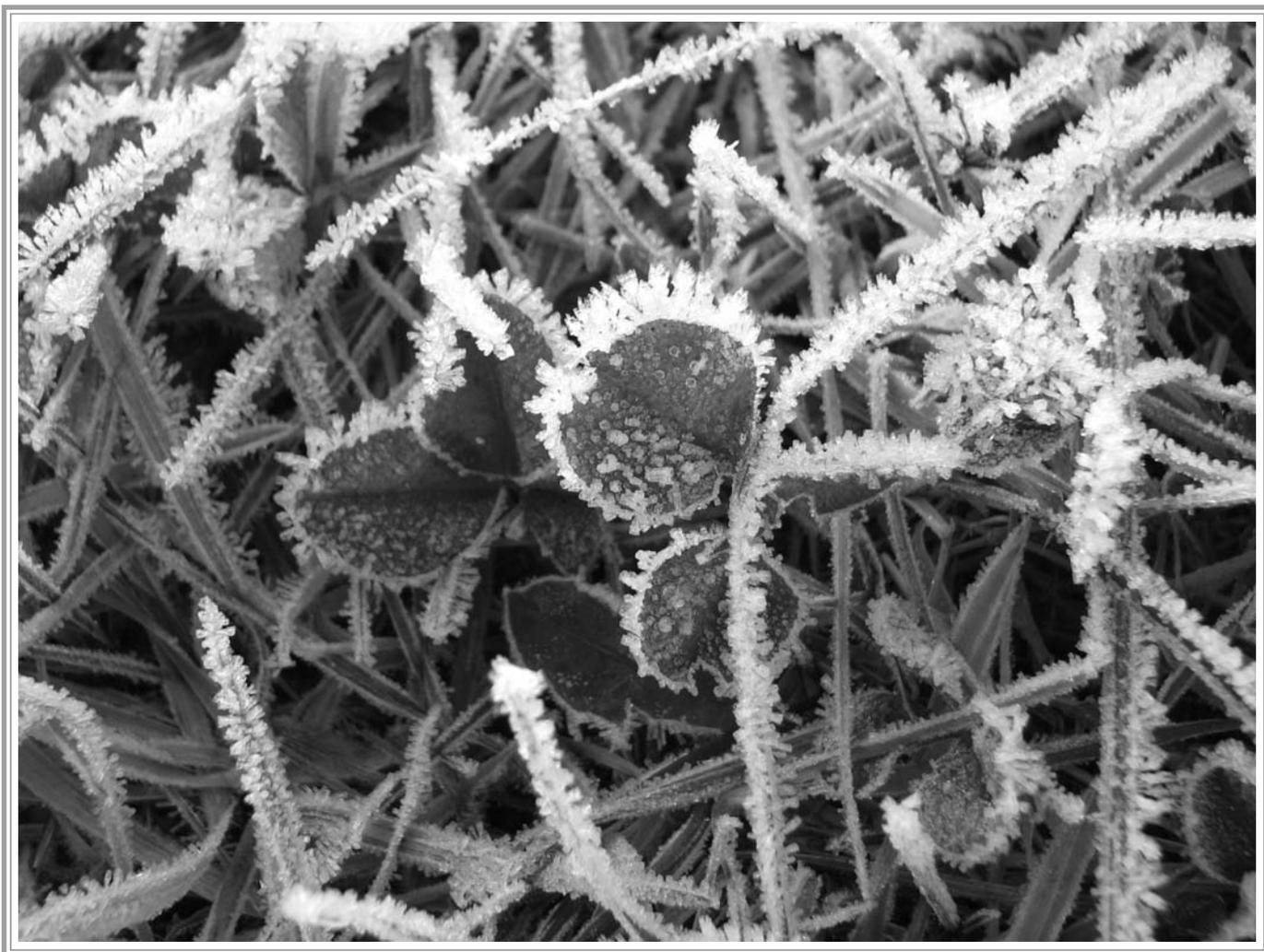
Intense work in the EAGT Board:  
Bas Lokerse,  
Peter Schulthess and  
Gianni Francesetti.

**ABBREVIATIONS LIST**

- EC – Executive Committee
- GB – General Board
- DVG – Deutsche Vereinigung für Gestalttherapie DVG e.V.
- SVG – Schweizer Verein für Gestalttherapie und Integrative Therapie
- SFG – La Société Française de Gestalt
- NVAGT – Nederlands Vlaamse Associatie voor Gestalttherapie en Gestalttheorie
- SIPG – Societa Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt
- BGS – British Gestalt Society
- GAGT – Greek Association of Gestalt Therapists
- ÖAGG/IG – Österreichischer Arbeitskreis für Gruppentherapie und Gruppendynamik / Integrative Gestalttherapie
- AETG – Asociación Española de Terapia Gestalt

- ISGTA – Israeli Gestalt Therapy Association
- IVGT – Institut pro výcvik v Gestalt terapii
- SLOGES – Slovene Association for Gestalt Therapy
- GITA – Institute for Gestalt Therapy, Ljubljana
- ARGI – Association of Russian-language Gestalt Institutes
- NSG – Nederlandse Stichting Gestalt
- GPTIM – Gestalt Psychotherapy Training Institute Malta
- MAGT – Macedonian Association for Gestalt Therapy
- JUGT – Jugoslovensko Udruzenje Za Gestalt Terapiju
- SAG – Swedish Association of Authorised Gestalt therapists
- NGF – Norsk Gestaltterapeut Forening
- NGI – Norkse Gestalt Institue ANS
- PSPP – Instytut Terapii Gestalt OK PSPP
- GS-B – Gestalt Studio – Beograd
- CTP – Center of Therapy and Psychology

- EPG – Ecole Parisienne de Gestalt
- TSC – Training Standard Committee
- EAP – European Association for Psychotherapy
- ECP – European Certificate of Psychotherapy
- NAO – National Awarding Organization
- NUO – National Umbrella Organization
- NOGT – National Organization for Gestalt Therapy
- EWAO – European Wide Accrediting Organization
- AGM – Annual General Meeting
- AOB – All other business
- GPO – Gestalt Practitioner in Organization
- AM – Associate member
- CM – Cooperative member
- OM – Ordinary member
- FM – Full member (according to statutes called ordinary)



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May this merry season  
touch the world with  
laughter! :-D



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