

Letter from the President

On may 5th, 2010, EAGT has existed for 25 years: Happy birthday!

This year is a very special year for EAGT. It's now 25 years old. In September we will celebrate this event with a great conference in Berlin. If you check the website of the conference, www.gestalt2010.eu, you will notice how wide and interesting the program is. The title of the conference „Lost in transformation?“ – Changing Identities in a changing World – has provoked a lot of meaningful contributions. I thank all the presenters for this wonderful participation.

If you have not yet subscribed, please do it soon, in order not to miss to be present at this historical event. Check in and join us. Our AGM (annual general meeting) and the conference are a wonderful occasion to meet colleagues from all over Europe and even from outside Europe. Invite also your colleagues in your country, that are not yet members of EAGT, to come to the conference and get a taste of the meaning of one of the main goals of EAGT: Offering a platform for European wide and even worldwide exchange among gestalt therapists, offering a possibility to meet and see what is going on in other countries.

Even if we are now a quite mature organization, we still make mistakes and have to learn. Unfortunately we've set the date of our conference as usual since years on the 2nd weekend of September, not being aware that this year this date overlaps with the Jewish New Year. I apologize to those who felt not well respected and for this reason might miss the conference. We will do better in future and have taken in our check list for conference organizers to consult in future also the Jewish calendar.



There will also be an important book ready for the conference: A book about Fritz Perls living 40 years in Berlin. It reflects the contemporary social, political and cultural influences on him and on his conception of Gestalt therapy.

And I proudly announce also a jubilee book about EAGT and its develop-

ment that will be ready for the conference.

The cooperation with Peace Brigades International has started with a workshop for training buddies.

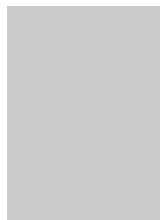
The training standards for Gestalt Practitioners in Organizations are ready for voting.

At the AGM you'll hear much more about all the different activities in EAGT and its working groups. We are getting forward in many areas! And we are growing also in numbers of members.

I am (even if we still make then and when mistakes) very proud of EAGT and being its president in this jubilee year. Since I have joined our association, I could witness that it is a vivid organization, with some stability but also in an ongoing transformation process. In a panel discussion at the conference some ex-members of the boards and ex-presidents will reflect on the transformation of EAGT.

I'm looking forward to seeing plenty of you in Berlin!

Peter Schulthess



EAGT-EC 2010, from left to right: Bas Lokerse (vice president, treasurer, chair working group GPO); Ester Neumanová (secretary), Marga Berends (office manager), Peter Schulthess (president), Jelena Zeleskov-Djoric (chair of NOGTs and PR officer), Gianni Francesetti (chair of TSC).



Treasurer's report

Just as companies, presenting their quarterly figures, can make a warning to shareholders to be prepared for a loss that's about to come, I will start my financial report for this issue of the Newsletter in the same manner. *The activities of the EAGT are disproportionate to the available resources.* The organization is financially out of balance. EAGT is as well a dynamic organization which stands in the middle of life. I'm thinking hereby of the *HR & SR Committee* and in its wake the *Fundraising Committee*. New is the *GPO working group*. In my view important developments that also cost money. New developments include additional work which for a big part will lie on Marga's, our office manager, plate.

The 2010 budget shows a shortage of € 8.900,-. Unfortunately we have



to add an addendum to the original estimate of € 3.300,= (see below) and given that now the total shortage comes to € 12.200,=*. The costs for the jubilee book are unique. To be able to continue

our work an increase of membership fee, with effect of 2011, is inevitable. Part of the money brought in by the raise of the fee is meant for the work of the committees and another part to enhance the appointment of Marga. From 14 hours per week on a yearly basis to 18 till 20 hours per week on a yearly basis, starting in 2011. Her workload fairly exceeds the appointment which she has now.

The budgeted increase of fee provides the organization with about € 10.000,= extra per year. If the EAGT wants to continue its work those money are desperately needed. You can realize this by agreeing to the raise of membership fee.

Below you'll find a table for the membership fee of 2011. On the next page are the numbers for 2009, the original and the addendum estimate for 2010.

Bas Lokerse, Treasurer

Proposed 2011 membership fee overview

Membership fee in Euros per year	Fee 2011	Fee 2010
Individuals (Retired Gestalt Practitioners)	€ 30,00	€ 25,00
Individuals (Associate, Cooperative)	€ 65,00	€ 55,00
Individuals (Eastern European Countries)	€ 75,00	€ 65,00
Individuals & Gestalt Practitioners in Organisation (Ordinary)	€ 90,00	€ 80,00
Organizations (AM/CM <= 150 and Eastern Europ. Countries)	€ 200,00	€ 125,00
Organizations (AM/CM <= 150 and Eastern Europ. Countries) NOGT	€ 230,00	€ 155,00
Organizations (AM/CM >150 <= 500)	€ 450,00	€ 350,00
Organizations (AM/CM > 500)	€ 800,00	€ 600,00
Organizations (OM <= 150)	€ 300,00	€ 220,00
Organizations (OM <= 150) NOGT	€ 350,00	€ 250,00
Organizations (OM >150 <=500)	€ 750,00	€ 500,00
Organizations (OM >150 <=500) NOGT	€ 780,00	€ 530,00
Organizations (OM > 500) NOGT	€ 1000,00	€ 830,00

How to pay / donate via PayPal

It is possible to pay your membership fee or to donate via PayPal which is linked to our website (section memberships). Some countries are not listed in PayPal BUT this does not mean you cannot pay / donate via PayPal and I will inform you how this can be done by an example:

PayPal does not have the country Serbia on its list and you as a Serbian would like to pay your membership fee. In that case you can select a country which language you understand and select country instead of Serbia... for instance you will select United Kingdom because you understand the English language. This way you can mislead the computer programme of PayPal and how PayPal advises to use this in countries where PayPal is not listed yet.

I invite you to try this feature in all cases when your country is not listed in the PayPal list!

Marga Berends
Office manager

Estimate 2009 + official numbers 2009 + Estimate 2010 (Original)

	Estimate 2009		Official numbers 2009		Estimate 2010	
	Inc. 2009	Exp. 2009	Inc. 2009	Exp.2009	Inc. 2010	Exp.2010
Executive Committee (EC)		€ 7.000,00		€ 6.581,00		€ 7.000,00
EC other meetings		€ 2.000,00		€ 1.760,00		€ 2.000,00
General Board		€ 4.500,00		€ 4.441,00		€ 4.500,00
Meeting rooms		€ 2.500,00		€ 3.121,00		€ 3.500,00
Bank costs		€ 500,00		€ 352,00		€ 500,00
PayPal costs		€ 100,00		€ 180,00		€ 250,00
Total costs office manager		€ 15.500,00		€ 12.437,00		€ 15.500,00
Desk costs		€ 1.500,00		€ 2.246,00		€ 2.000,00
Postage		€ 3.000,00		€ 2.910,00		€ 3.000,00
Newsletter		€ 1.500,00		€ 1.500,00		€ 1.500,00
Mailing costs		€ 1.000,00		€ 514,00		€ 1.000,00
Costs Training Standard Comm.		€ 3.000,00		€ 3.124,00		€ 3.000,00
Costs HR&SR		€ 4.000,00		€ 1.426,00		€ 4.000,00
Costs Ethics committee		€ 1.000,00		€ 987,00		€ 1.000,00
Costs Fundraising comm.				€ 292,00		€ 500,00
Costs NOGT committee				€ 167,00		€ 500,00
Costs GPO committee						€ 3.000,00
Book sponsoring				€ 5.000,00		
Costs jubilee book				€ 24,00		€ 3.000,00
Website		€ 1.000,00		€ 1.502,00		€ 1.000,00
EAP/NAP fee		€ 1.000,00		€ 1.002,00		€ 1.000,00
ECP (NOGT share)		€ 300,00		€ 120,00		€ 150,00
EAP (accreditation share)	€ 572,00		€ 1.146,00		€ 100,00	
Membership fee 2008	€ 1.525,00		€ 705,00			
Membership fee 2009	€ 34.540,00		€ 31.237,00		€ 2.000,00	
Membership fee 2010			€ 300,00		€ 35.950,00	
Membership fee advance	€ 500,00				€ 500,00	
Joint membership	€ 8.420,00		€ 8.470,00		€ 8.500,00	
ECP	€ 600,00		€ 1.635,00		€ 1.000,00	
Accreditation fee	€ 500,00		€ 500,00		€ 500,00	
Re-registration fee	€ 300,00		€ 250,00		€ 200,00	
Advertisement	€ 100,00		€ 350,00		€ 100,00	
Administration costs	€ 150,00		€ 110,00		€ 150,00	
interest			€ 475,00			
Loss & Profit calculation*	€ 2.193,00		€ 4.508,00		€ 8.900,00	
	€ 49.400,00	€ 49.400,00	€ 49.686,00	€ 49.686,00	€ 57.900,00	€ 57.900,00

Estimate 2010 (Addendum)

	Estimate 2009		Official numbers 2009		Estimate 2010	
	Inc. 2009	Exp. 2009	Inc. 2009	Exp.2009	Inc. 2010	Exp.2010
Transfer					€ 57.900,00	€ 57.900,00
PR (folder)						€ 1.800,00
PR (DVD Harm Siemens)						€ 1.500,00
Additional to L&P calculation*					€ 3.300,00	
					€ 61.200,00	€ 61.200,00

Letter from the Secretary



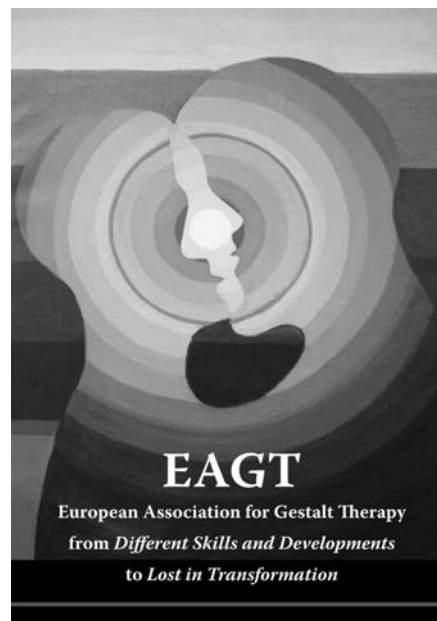
Dear colleagues,
 This is my last report that I write as a secretary of EAGT. I will finish my three-year function and I will pass the job over to my successor in September in Berlin. This idea is associated with a feeling of satisfaction with the work that I had been performing for 3 years. Great pleasure for me was the collaboration with the members of the executive committee and the office manager *Marga Berends*, who has throughout my great support. Secretarial work is quite demanding on time and it can be characterized as an administrative routine, which is often necessary to perform with regard to the specifics of the various

memberships applications.

In addition to the processing of applications for memberships in EAGT I have been busy, the past half year, preparing the EAGT jubilee book, which was prepared on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the organization. The aim of this work was to go through the archives of EAGT and prepare a brief history EAGT, link it with the memories of long time members and accompanied by photographs. Big thanks for the collecting and sorting of archival documents of EAGT is given to *Marga Berends* who did the main part of the work on the booklet.

The publication will be issued and sold during the conference in Berlin. Part of the profit from the sale of publications will be used for the purpose of the fundraising Committee. I would like to recommend the publication of the jubilee book to the attention of all EAGT members who can and will support the mission of the fundraising committee by buying the booklet. Special thanks are also for *Lars Berg* from Sweden who took the editing part of this project upon him.

In the last part of my term as secretary I will continue to work on the accreditation of individual members who apply for EAGT membership. Another important task during this period will be



The cover of the Jubilee book, illustrating "25 years of European collaboration".

to send out letters to professional organizations and check whether those organizations fulfil EAGT requirements. This way we will initiate a new procedure that will be conducted every 5 years.

I would like to express my pleasure that I've experienced during my EAGT work in meeting colleagues from many countries. These meetings were beneficial for my personal and professional life. I wish you much success in life and work.

Ester Neumanova
 EAGT secretary

EAGT is looking for a candidate for the office of Secretary

During the next AGM *Ester Neumanova* will step back as secretary of EAGT, according to our statutes. She has then worked for 9 years in the Executive Committee.

For that reason we are looking for a new candidate who is willing to take over the work of Ester. Below you'll find a job description.

You can send your application letter, your CV and motivation to the office of EAGT, per e-mail eagtoffice@planet.nl or per regular mail **EAGT office, c/o Noorderdiep 304, 9521 BL Nieuw Buinen, The Netherlands** before July 1, 2010.

JOB DESCRIPTION SECRETARY:

- Member of Executive Committee.
- Is responsible for EAGT correspondence.
- Is responsible for compiling the draft minutes of the various meetings.
- Maintains the policy plan and is actively involved within the Executive Committee in developing policy on organisational level.
- Is responsible for drafting the content of the annual report together with the president.
- Is informed and knowledgeable of the developments in the field of Gestalt therapy on European level.

- Is primarily responsible for processing the resignation and joining of committee/board members.
- Prepares the meetings together with the president or vice-president.
- Works closely together with office manager in the preparation of meetings and related matters.
- Is point of mutual interest for the organisation of a conference in case of tasks referring to EAGT.
- Promotes EAGT to Gestalt therapists and inspires them to become a member of EAGT.
- Deals with the accreditation and re-accreditation of individual members and professional organizations.

Report from the Training Standards Committee

As TSC's chair, I would like to point out some relevant issues which were recently discussed.

Besides its job of accreditation of new institutes, the TSC has prepared the new procedures for follow up and re-accreditation of Training Institutes.

Indeed, usually, the accreditation is given under specific conditions and recommendations and the follow up procedure has the aim of verifying that the accredited institute is making the changes required and to support it if some help is needed.

Furthermore, after 5 years the institutes have to be reaccredited: this process has to be different from the first accreditation because there is already a connection between TSC and the institute and TSC already has the documents about its structure and functioning. So, TSC has looked for a good balance between saving costs and time and maintaining a direct and supportive contact with the institute.

We have prepared two procedures that provide guidelines for these processes and we have to approve them during the next AGM in September.

Please, read them, you can find them on our website (*section activities > bulletin board*). You are welcome if you'd like to ask me for clarifications and/or to send comments and suggestions.

Another point is about our committee: *Ken Evans* can't be an active mem-



ber any more, but he will remain part of our committee as an advisor. Anyway, we have to elect a new member during the next AGM. Please, send to our office manager your curriculum if you are interested in this position. It's a job that requires commitment:

- to know EAGT criteria for accreditation;
- to participate in the TSC's meetings (twice a year: February/March and September);
- to visit institutes for accreditations after having thoroughly studied its documents, to write reports on the visit, to follow up the institute after accreditation, to follow the process of re-accreditation;
- to keep in contact with the TSC and with Training Institutes for discussing is-

ssues and arising matters.

Another issue we will consider in the next AGM is about the proposal by *Daan Van Baalen* to change our standards. You can find it in our website. His request is to consider the length of the hours of therapy, supervision and training of 45 minutes instead of 60 minutes. The TSC suggests to keep the standards as they are: the length of the training hours, of group supervision and group therapy is of 60 minutes; the length of individual therapy and individual supervision can be of 45, 50 or 60 minutes.

The last point: in Berlin we will propose a panel where we will invite all Training Institutes that are considering applying for accreditation: it will be a good opportunity to clarify our procedures and to have a confrontation with institutes already accredited. So, all of you that are interested in the process of accreditation are strongly invited to participate to this meeting.

Finally, I want to thank my colleagues *Ken Evans, Nurith Levi, Faye Page, Lidija Pecotic* for their precious and generous support.

My best wishes to all of you for a resting and joyful summer!

See you in Berlin!

Gianni Francesetti

Training Standards Committee
acting Chair

EAGT is looking for a candidate for the office of TSC member

Ken Evans stepped back as TSC member and for that reason we are looking for a new candidate who is willing to fulfil the task as TSC member. Below you'll find a brief job description.

You can send your application letter, your CV and motivation to the office of EAGT, per e-mail

eagtoffice@planet.nl or per regular mail EAGT office, c/o Noorderdiep 304, 9521 BL Nieuw Buinen, The Netherlands before July 1, 2010.

JOB DESCRIPTION TSC MEMBER:

- to know EAGT criteria for accreditation;
- to participate in the TSC's meetings (twice a

year: February/March and September);

- to visit institutes for accreditations after having thoroughly studied its documents, to write reports on the visit, to follow up the institute after accreditation, to follow the process of re-accreditation;
- to keep in contact with the TSC and with Training Institutes for discussing issues and arising matters.

Letter from the External Relations/NOGT officer

Dear colleagues,
At the beginning of March I had my first meetings after I was elected as the NOGTs officer of EAGT in Berlin last September. I must say that it was a really interesting experience for me to meet all the people that came from EAGT Executive committee and General Board. I was very satisfied with the way we work together at these meetings in a positive and constructive atmosphere.

We have done many things, but also many questions arose. The things that were important for the NOGTs officer are that the Italian NOGT (SPIG) received their certificate during the General Board meeting; I had a conversation with the representatives from Macedonia and Greece about their name-issue and I hope that it will be worked out in a satisfying way for both parties. Also, we have sent letter to the Spanish NOGT (AEGT) about their documentation and the things that need to be done to finally become Ordinary Member of EAGT.

These days we have some contact with the Macedonian NOGT and we will discuss their request to become an ordinary member of EAGT.



Jelena Zeleskov Djoric, chair of NOGTs is handing over the NOGT certificate and congratulating the Italian representative Michele Canavò for the successful re-registration of the Italian NOGT SIPG.

We will pick up our work in sending letters to NOGTs to become re-accredited and/or to go for accreditation as ordinary NOGT member, in order to have voting rights as governing board during the General Board meetings. We hope

in your country. I look forward to our meeting and I'm awaiting your questions and proposals to my e-mail address.

Jelena Zeleskov Djoric
Chair of NOGTs

we may soon welcome your documentation which can be sent to the office of EAGT for processing.

Finally, I'd like to invite you to come to the Berlin conference to meet each other, knowing ourselves and having positive and fruitful conversations about your NOGT, your dilemmas, problems, solutions and all others issues that might be useful for you and the development of gestalt therapy

Report from the HR&SR Committee

‘It is time for us in the Gestalt community to put our money where our mouth is’.

With this last sentence Ken Evans closed his email to our committee members in which he proposed to establish an ethical and social levy for all individual members and organisations to support the work of our HR&SR committee.

In my capacity as chair I like to support Kens' proposal. His idea is simple and effective, at one go we can carry out most of our planned activities for 2010 and 2011. I will second his proposal at the AGM in September and I want to encourage all of you to give your 'YES' when we vote on it.

The work with Peace Brigade International is in progress. Let me give a



summary of our activities.

More than 20 EAGT members applied to act as a volunteer Gestalt therapist for PBI in case a PBI needs emo-

tional support. In June we carry out a two days training in Zurich for returned volunteers who want to act as a buddy for new ones.

At the end of 2010 we will be present with 4 Gestalt therapists to facilitate a 3 days returned volunteer gathering. This is a good opportunity to learn more about PBI work and challenges that their volunteers addressed during and after deployment, as well as an opportunity to provide timely professional support for adjustment difficulties.

EAGT will participate in the Emergency Response Committee of PBI in order to support country groups in a crisis.

PBI and EAGT will give a joint presentation at the conference in Berlin. We

will also organize a meeting during the conference with PBI representatives, our committee and all EAGT members who applied as volunteer Gestalt therapist for PBI.

In 2011 we also want to provide PBI with face to face support to teams and individual volunteers in countries where those resources are not available.

Regarding to our Israeli-Palestinian project we decided to postpone the planned meeting in Israel for October 2010 and to take smaller steps to organize the idea about an Israeli-Palestinian conference joined by professionals of

former conflicting areas in Europe. The current political situation in Israel and Palestine makes it impossible to organize meetings.

We keep our finger on the pulse to see what we can do to contribute regarding dialogue and peace building process.

Michela Gecele of our committee has taken the initiative to organize a three days training session for trainers and psychotherapist concerning social, political and (inter)cultural matters. This training is planned for 2011 and will take place in Venice. This program will be developed in close cooperation

with our Committee. One of the objectives of this program is how to include social, political and (inter)cultural matters in training programmes. Since all speakers will work for free the proceeds will go to EAGT to cover other HR&SR activities.

Back to Kens' proposal. I call you to accept this at the AGM in Berlin. To take our responsibility for what we can contribute in the field of Human Rights. See you in Berlin.

Guus Klaren,
Chair

GPO (Gestalt Practitioner in Organizations)

In the Newsletter of December 15th, 2009 an historical overview was published regarding the start of the Gestalt Practitioner in Organizations (GPO) in the EAGT.

If I may compare the implementing of GPO in EAGT with a marathon (as I write this, the Rotterdam marathon is run) then we call the start successful. However, the runner makes a classic mistake. The first 20 kilometres he walked too fast and that means that he has to pay for it. Cramps, stomach pain, lead in the legs and a head that wants to go much faster and a body that will not cooperate. The new working group GPO started in March after preparatory work. A pity that not all members could

be present. We had an exploratory meeting. A fascinating way of working which was needed in order to make the next step. The ambitious agenda (the short-distance runner in me) I'd made, we have left it for what it was.

At the end of the meeting I proposed to further develop the results of our fascinating and constructive discussions. This resulted in the document "Training Standards for: individual members GPO, GPO Training Institutes and GPO Organisations".

This document has been sent to all members of the GPO working group and they will study it based on a number of directives. Initially, it mainly concerns the core of the document. While

working with it, I can imagine it will be adjusted and refined over the years. It is a basic document with basic qualifications.

In the time between now and the Annual General Meeting of Members held in September in Berlin, the document will be based on comments, suggestions, ideas and consultations updated and made ready to be voted on.

It remains a marathon. I assume that we make the finish line. With what result we only know when we crossed the finish.

Bas Lokerse
Chair working Group GPO

The Ethics Committee

Dear colleagues,
As you may remember the EAGT Ethics Committee is preparing a workshop during the coming congress in Berlin. We hope to get live in touch there with our colleagues working in ethics committees, from as much European countries as possible. This really will be a unique opportunity, and so far we have had many enthusiastic responses.

After all we have chosen a new title for our workshop: *You should be ethical.*

By this somehow provocative motto we hope to discuss the position of ethics in relation to the Gestalt approach. We

will ask ourselves why ethics is often not present in our literature, and how our complaints procedures are compatible with dialogue between colleagues. We plan to do this is a lively way.

And furthermore, we start to exchange experiences of working in ethics committees. Already some colleagues are involved in preparing this.

Of course we welcome not only colleagues of ethics committees, but also everybody who is interested. If you want more information, you are welcome to contact us at pgjb@xs4all.nl.

Of course our daily work is also proceeding, though it is slowed down by



several health problems. We are in touch with several NOGT's in the process of getting their EAGT Ordinary Membership. We thank each and everyone for their patience, which is needed often these days.

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

Joppie Bakker
Chair Ethics Committee.

Reports from European Countries

Norway

Ida Wadel
President NGF

The celebration of our first 20 years of existence was a great success, and it was motivating to see so many enthusiastic gestalt therapists. Norwegian gestalt therapists are, by the way, great dancers!

I am proud to say that we have engaged *Bodil Fagerheim* as the new editor of our magazine "GestaltTerapeuten". Her first issue as editor has already reached our members, and it both looks good and has lots of interesting content. At the moment the magazine comes out twice a year and is mostly for our members. Bodil has ambitions to expand so that the magazine can reach our collaborators, clients and others in the future.

We have also hired *Annichen Sandborg* as our new secretary from April 1 and she is already making a difference to our organization. This is the only paid position in the NGF.

I'm also happy to say that the board is complete again after our annual meeting. We struggled until March to manage all the business and some things have been postponed. The vice president and I were elected for another two years and the whole board is ready for the tasks to come in 2010.

We started the New Year with a visit from New York; an interesting workshop with *Bud Feder* left many of the participants motivated for group therapy work. Our workshops in the autumn will be lead by two well experienced Norwegian gestalt therapist on the theme "existential and restrictive anxiety" and this time in Tromsø (northern Norway) and Stavanger (western Norway) as well as Oslo.

A group of people interested in writing about gestalt therapy has formed a network to catch and respond to interesting themes in the media. This can be articles, comments, letters to the editor and so on - so far we have had a few write-ups published in the newspapers.

I think this is a good way to "spread the word" about gestalt, and also good marketing.

There is a debate amongst gestalt therapists in Norway: do we want to be part of the health system and work toward authorization and refund possibilities? At our seminar in November there were several lectures about the issue and the debate continues in our magazine *GestaltTerapeuten*. One of the questions is whether we are ready for the responsibility and obligations this involves, another is whether it's possible and what it takes to get there. In 2010, NGF and the board will continue to explore the two avenues of establishing gestalt therapy as a credible alternative to official health care (for people in need), and to find out what will be needed to be accepted as part of the established health system.

I think we are fortunate in Norway that we have access to the authorities through our membership in NFP (Norwegian part of EAP) and Saborg (a collaboration of alternative organizations providing treatment) where we aim to be even more active in the different working committees in the future. This organization is now paid for by the associations that are connected to them and at the moment Saborg is working on a common plan for education in subjects such as science, ethics, communications and sociology. They are also working for

a joint complaint and appeal procedure.

I'm looking forward to see you all in Berlin in September!

Slovenia

Tatjana Verbnik Dobnikar

We are happy to announce that the number of members in SLOGES is increasing in this year we are more than 40 members now. SLOGES union therapists from variety Gestalt Institutes from Slovenia and abroad. This year also some gestalt family psychotherapists, trained in Kempler's Institut joined SLOGES. SLOGES was re-accredited as NOGT for the next 5 years.

Three people, trained in Gita-Gestalt Institut: *Andreja Modrin, Vesna Solar* and *Danila Beloglavec* made their a final exam and got their EAP certificate and will apply for EAGT membership. SLOGES organized several workshops with foreign trainers (*Michael Clemmens, Todd Burley, Robert Lee, Fred Korthagen, Lynn Stadler*) on variety interesting topics and also some people from Croatia Gestalt society join us. We present our work on Study days of psychotherapy SKZP so gestalt approach is getting more and more recognised in Slovenia.

Italy

Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb

The *Società Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt* (SIPG), the Italian NOGT, has been accredited by EAGT last March! We are very proud of this achievement.

We are working now in order to reach students of last year of all gestalt therapy institutes in Italy and propose them to join the Association on a free basis. This will help them experience the life of the Association from the last year of their training program (that as you know is accredited by the Minister for Universities), so that they can stay in it on a regular basis also after they graduate.

The SIPG publishes a Newsletter (*NewsSipp*) twice a year, which helps all members (regular and students) to get information about events in the EAGT and in the SIPG.

April 16-20 2010 the Italian NAO, the FIAP, has organized a National conference on a cruise, which has been attended by many psychotherapists by all approaches. Gestalt therapy has been largely represented in this conference by many colleagues, trainers and students. They have actively contributed to build the dialogue with other approaches.

Finally, we are now working on our next conference, which will be held in Palermo on December 9-11. It addresses all Italian gestalt therapists and psycho-

therapy schools. There is much good work and good life around gestalt therapy in Italy, as you can see!

AUSTRIA

Beatrix Wimmer, ÖVG

Let's start with our highlight of 2009: *OEVG was notified of its accreditation as an ordinary member of the EAGT in November 2009.*

OEVG members and special guests will celebrate this special achievement at the beginning of May with a joint walk in the Vienna Woods combined with a nice celebration.

2010 is still young: there haven't been lots of activities till now, nevertheless there were at least some and finally I will have to make some interesting announcements.

In February the OEVG Gestalt Forum was held on the topic "Relatedness – a vision for psychotherapy", with reference to *Erving Polster's* newly published book "Uncommon ground: harmonizing psychotherapy and community to enhance everyday living."

In February, too, we had our second meeting in Cologne in preparation of the 3rd Three-German-Language-Countries-Conference dedicated to *Paul Goodman's* birthday centennial to be held in Vienna (November 11th-13th, 2011). *Heide Anger* and I are working with the DVG and SVG and FS IGT/

OEAGG to prepare this conference.

As I reported earlier we'll have the great pleasure to welcome *Susan Goodman*, Paul's daughter, and if we are very lucky even more members of the Goodman family to this conference. *Jonathan Lee* has offered very generously the screening of his exciting film about Paul Goodman at our conference!

In March we had our annual general meeting and elections, where slight personal changes in the executive board and in the ethics committee were made.

June will hopefully bring a workshop with *Peter Heintl* on the topic "Intuitive Diagnostics"; this will be a da capo from last year's big success.

For October we plan a dramatised reading of *Anna Kollreuter's* book "Sie streifen so nah am Geheimnis". Bei Sigmund Freud auf der Couch. Aus dem Tagebuch der Schweizer Analysandin Anna G. ("You are so close to the secret" - on Sigmund Freud's Couch. From the diary of the Swiss analysand Anna G.) This event will take place in Vienna in cooperation with the Viennese Psychoanalytic Society WPV.

For November we have invited *Achim Votsmeier* from Germany for a workshop "Gestalttherapy with Borderline clients and other personality disorders".

Details of all our events are on www.oevg-gestalt.at

With best wishes for a happy and exciting spring and summer!

EAGT Membership

New Individual Members 2009

<i>Michela Gecele</i>	ITALY	OM
<i>Nifont Dolgoplov</i>	RUSSIA	OM
<i>Natka Pacoska</i>	MACEDONIA	OM
<i>Maria Lekareva</i>	RUSSIA	OM
<i>Radetić Radovan</i>	SLOVENIA	OM
<i>Velimir Dugandžić</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Ulla Banelow-Becart</i>	FRANCE	OM
<i>Joseph Melnick</i>	USA	OM
<i>Pascale Venara</i>	FRANCE	OM
<i>Nada Saje-Hribar</i>	SLOVENIA	OM
<i>Bruno Rousseau</i>	FRANCE	OM
<i>Ivana Birsa</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Maja Lovrin Durović</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Grozdana Biočić-Zrilić</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Nikolina Franić Popović</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Margareta Mesić</i>	CROATIA	OM

<i>Marina Nekić</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Rozana Petani</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Dijana Vrsaljko</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Sandra Zelić</i>	CROATIA	OM
<i>Valentina Relković-Radonjić</i>	SERBIA	OM
<i>Vladislava Stojković</i>	SERBIA	OM
<i>Jens Mebius</i>	SWEDEN	OM
<i>Paul Barber</i>	U.K.	OM

New GPO members

Altered membership status for NOGTs

New Training Institute(s):

Abbreviations explained:

- OM = Ordinary Membership (formerly called full membership)
 AM = Associate Membership
 GPO = Gestalt Practitioner in Organisations

In memory of Harm Siemens

*"If you were to love a cloud...
you would know that the cloud is impermanent.
But if you forget about impermanence and
are attached to the cloud, when the time comes
for the cloud to be transformed into rain
you will cry, 'Oh dear, my cloud is no longer
there'..."*

*The rain is smiling, singing, falling down,
full of life, full of beauty.*

*Yet because of your forgetfulness, you are caught
in grief...*

*Meanwhile the rain is calling you, "Darling,
darling, I am here, recognize me!"*

Thich Nhat Hanh, NO DEATH, NO FEAR

Our beloved Harm...
...our soft and gentle cloud, you are not here anymore. But your fruitful, comforting, rain is around us. Your warm smile in our memories, your accurate and precise sight in our work, your inspirational teaching through your writings – You taught us that "to be present is a present, a gift". Thank you Harm from the bottom of our hearts, for your gifted presence in our lives. You brought us light, humor, warmth, wisdom, knowledge, but mostly a unique touch of humanity.

Bas, when you asked me to write a "memoriam" for *Harm Siemens*, I felt deeply touched and, at the same time, very responsible.

What is there left to say for a man...
"stable as a rock
moving as a sea,
sweet as a wind,
father as the sky..."

... as *Eleni Chatzigeorgiou*, a colleague from Greece, says about him.

Therefore, I have decided to share not just my thoughts with you, but also some quotations by all those people who talked about him at his funeral.

I feel this is a collaborative work and "Harm, without dismissing his own pain and efforts, or those of others, used his generosity and compassion to enable him to get on with most people, and to



be a connecting factor at the same time", as *Michiel van den Heuvel* said and continued with... "Harm and Gestalt go hand in hand".

I think that everyone who had the fortune and the opportunity to meet Harm is able to recognize that.

For all of you, who did not have the chance to knowing him, and for all of us who did, I will provide you with some information about Harm's life, as *Dick Lompa*, his companion in life and in work, shared with us at the funeral.

Harm Siemens was born in a small town, *Oude Pekela* in The Netherlands on 1 July 1932. The Second World War had an enormous impact on him during his younger years.

The disappearance of school friends (many of them Jewish) and many shops in his town awakened a concern and a compassion for the "other".

He decided to study nursing as a profession and a way of helping the other. He graduated as a nurse and practiced his profession in various hospitals in the Netherlands. In 1958 he joined the *Deakonen*, a religious institution that was dedicated to helping and caring for the sick and the less fortunate.

He continued to work as a nurse in other countries; France, England and the United States. After this, he worked for two years for the Dutch Volunteers in a psychiatric hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.

Upon returning to the Netherlands, he entered the training program in the Higher School for Nursing Science in Leusden. After graduating from the course, he was given a position in the school as a member of the teaching staff.

In the early 70's, Harm wanted to continue his development and he applied to the *Netherlands Gestalt Instituut* for a three year intensive Gestalt psychotherapy training. This was a very new training program in The Netherlands at that time. In the same period, Harm continued his study and was awarded a Master Degree from the University of Mexico.

Harm was the founder of the *Nederlands Stichting Gestalt* and has continued to work there as an inspiration, a visionary, a teacher and a supervisor until he became ill. He had also become involved in many Gestalt training programs around the world; Greece, Russia, Macedonia, Italy, Spain, India, Israel and Latvia. For this work, especially his work in India sponsored by HIVOS for the prevention and care of AIDS victims there, he was honored in the year 2000 with a medal and title from her Majesty *Queen Beatrix* of The Netherlands.

"Harm was a great inspiration", as *Ella Mulders* mentioned, and "he will remain in our memories as a teacher, a colleague, and, especially, as a friend" as *Marjan Wiegman* pointed out.

I close this memoriam with a quotation from a letter by apostle *Paulus* to the Christians in Philippi (chapter 1, verse 6) that *Eva Fischer* recited at his funeral by his own wish ...

"I am convinced, that He who started a good work in you, will complete it till the end, till the day of *Jesus Christ* (own translation)."

With respect and gratefulness...

... one of those "befriended" by your presence...

Katia Hatzilakou

Obituary – in memory of Synnøve Jørstad

As members of the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT), the Norwegian Gestalt Institute wishes to honor the memory of *Synnøve Jørstad*.

Synnøve passed away peacefully on November 20th, only 65 years old and a scant year after being diagnosed with cancer. Synnøve truly loved life, and she kept her faith and will to live into her very last week. Despite the illness, Synnøve continued to be completely and admirably engaged in life. She was fully present until the very last; she organized hospital visits and was open about her needs and how she was doing.

Synnøve received her Master of Arts degree (Cand. Philol.), then worked as a high school teacher and counselor for many years. She graduated from the four-year Gestalt Therapist training at NGI (the Norwegian Gestalt Institute) in 1992, and followed up with their post-graduate program and supervision training before being hired at the



school. Already an experienced teacher, her knowledge and organizational skills were beneficial to many. We, her colleagues, fondly remember her unbiased contributions to our discussions, as well as her ever present sense of humor.

Synnøve was co-editor of two essay collections for NGI, and co-founded the Norwegian Gestalt Journal (*Norsk Gestalttidsskrift*) in 2004. Later, she was a

member of the editorial committee, the last year as editor. Synnøve did an outstanding job with the publication. She wrote several articles that were published nationally as well as internationally, and she contributed several interviews and book reviews. She also provided constructive and inspiring guidance for other writers.

For two years, Synnøve was head of the Norwegian Gestalt therapist union (NGF), and for several years thereafter a member of the committee of ethics in the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT). She generously contributed her theoretical knowledge and broad experience, thereby ensuring today's ethical EAGT guidelines.

Synnøve will be deeply missed by many -- her colleagues, students and clients.

On behalf of NGI:

Gro Skottun,

Daan van Baalen and

Svein Johansen

Fundraising

Last weekend (March 19–21) I've looked at the latest skating competition of this season. The world championships all-round. There are skaters that are very good at the short distance as *Sjikova* from Russia and at the men *Kuck* from the United States. And skaters that are very good at the long distance as *Sablikova* from the Czech Republic and our own *Sven Kramer* of the men.

To become all-round champion, you have to have some of both. You'll wonder what all this has to do with fundraising... Everything I'd say. I am a representative of the short distance. First I wanted, on behalf of the committee, to make a summary of the work we've all done last year. And we've worked hard. I feel like an all-round skater who is very good at the short distance and given the results probably will not meet the 10 kilometres as the second longest distance already is a tragedy.

You will understand I am a disap-

pointed man. Where were you to encourage me? It is so easy to donate. Many small ones make one big one. It's that simple! Visit our website and click, click, click and the *Human Rights & Social Responsibility (HR&SR) Committee* has received some money for their *Peace Brigades International* (PBI project). It also works from bank to bank. Click, click, click. So simple, even for a digital illiterate like me.

Know that each year EAGT contributes € 4.000,= in the HR&SR committee so they can do their work and they cannot do that without your contribution.

The result so far... € 80,=.

What still is making me happy is the contribution of the Romanian NOGT. *Carmen Beyer* handed this over to us during the General Meeting in Amsterdam.

At that meeting I was also pleasantly surprised by the fact that fundraising in response to our efforts certainly has the attention of the other board members and soon we can expect the results of that. I know I'm a short distance skater.

I invite you to fill out your own initiatives. Any gift or initiative is welcome. You can keep us informed via the office of EAGT and if you have any questions please just let us know.

Marga, Dieter, Bas

P.S. On May 5th EAGT has existed for 25 years. This will be celebrated during the 10th EAGT conference in Berlin. Given that we are working on a jubilee book. The content of the jubilee book is a brief history of EAGT, pictures from several conferences, interviews etc. Our intention is to sell this jubilee book during the conference and you can buy it for € 15,= or for € 20,=. If you will pay € 20,= for the jubilee book, we will give € 5,= to the Human Rights and Social Responsibility committee of EAGT, so they can continue their good work. Feel free to donate more if you also support the good work of the Human Rights and Social Responsibility committee!

Lost in Transformation?

Dear colleagues,
While I am writing these lines it is spring in Europe. A sunny springtime in the north of Germany.

I would like to introduce myself here briefly: My name is *Sibylle Ahlbrecht*. From 2003 to 2009 I was chair of the board of the DVG (*Deutsche Vereinigung für Gestalttherapie e.V.*), the German Association for Gestalt therapy. I coordinate the work of the organization team for the conference. This consists of *Christof Weber* and *Olaf Zielke*, who many of you might know as representatives of the DVG in EAGT, as well as the colleagues *Inge Matthies* from HIGW (*Hamburger Institut für gestaltorientierte Weiterbildung/EAGT*) and *Carmen Suleiman* from the Symbolon Institut and me.

At this moment, April 2010, it appears to me, as if the date of the conference would still be in hardly seizable proximity, but I know by experience that it feels then, as if one only turns once or twice around and with a blink of an eye it is already September...

We, i.e. the DVG, are glad and proud that we may welcome numerous colleagues from Europe in Berlin. And there are at least two reasons for that.

The *European Association for Gestalt Therapy* (EAGT) was founded on 5th

European Association for Gestalt Therapy

EAGT Office

c/o Marga Berends

Noorderdiep 304

9521 BL Nieuw Buinen

The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0) 599 614661

Fax: +31 (0) 84 719 3196

E-mail: eagtoffice@planet.nl

Web: www.eagt.org

Editor: *Lars Berg*, Sweden
<lars@egenart.info>



May, 1985, in Hückeswagen/Germany, with the aim of gathering European individual Gestalt therapists, Training Institutes and National Organisations of promoting Gestalt therapy in Europe, combining and exchanging knowledge and resources, fostering a high professional standard for Gestalt therapy and encouraging research. During this conference EAGT will celebrate its 25th anniversary

On the other hand Berlin is the native city of Fritz Perls (1893) and in the first marriage years with Laura Perls (from 1930 to the escape of 1933) place of residence of the family. Thus there is much to discover in Berlin on the traces of the family Perls.

Beyond that it is the networking thought, which has induced us, the DVG, in Athens 2007 to apply as host of the 10th EAGT conference.

The word "globalization" is on everyone's lips and would like to be filled in Germany with content. And so we are very pleased to announce to you, from which countries registrations for the participation in the conference are, so far, already present: Egypt, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Serbia,

Slovenia, Spain, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, USA and New Zealand.

Altogether – up to now – approximately 500 colleagues are registered for the participation. 150 of these colleagues engage themselves as "presenter" of workshops, mini-lectures and lectures.

Among them are *Frank M. Staemmler*, *Nancy Amendt-Lyon*, *Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb*, *Serge Ginger*, *Rita* and *Bob Resnick*, *Dan Bloom*, *Nurith Levi*.... To enumerate all names, would blow up the framework.

If you want to get acquainted with the complete program, you can find all current information on our conference-website at www.gestalt2010.eu, the program is constantly updated. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact us at info@gestalt2010.eu

We invite you, to visit Berlin and to participate in the EAGT conference. We have room and place enough for more colleagues who are interested – and the program offers interesting and exciting content. If you still were hesitating....it is not too late to fill in our digital application form.

We are looking forward to welcome you in beautiful Berlin as we are ready for it and enjoy our hospitality.

With collegial regards and best wishes,

Sibylle Ahlbrecht
(for the organization team)