

Letter from the President

Looking back at the 10th EAGT Conference the impression that is left behind is that it was a great event. We had a lot of good contributions and the atmosphere at the location was good, as we had always good meeting possibilities also during breaks. EAGT's 25th anniversary was very well embedded at this conference. We have received a lot of feedback from people saying how much they enjoyed this conference and even complained that it was too short! I want to thank the organizing team of the German Association for Gestalt therapy (DVG) for carrying out this jubilee conference. They really did an excellent job.

For the members of the Executive Committee this was a very full week. Most of us started already on Monday and spent all days until Sunday with several meetings and presentations and panel discussions. So we all got a well proportioned dosage of EAGT and Gestalt matters. I myself have left Berlin tired but also enriched and satisfied.

From my report at the AGM I want to point out some aspects for those who could not participate. Our various Committees are very active and function well. We have produced and/or supported a jubilee book about EAGT, a DVD in memory of *Harm Siemens* and a translation of a relevant book from German into English: *Bern Bocian: Fritz Perls in Berlin 1893-1933*.

The policy of EAGT is to connect and to be inclusive. This is shown also



in our statutes: For those who do not fulfil our standards can become ordinary members (OM) but we have also categories of membership where one is welcomed as associate members (AM) or cooperative members (CM).

About the relation between EAP (European Association for Psychotherapy) and EAGT: We are a member of EAP and we have influence in EAP. There is a mutual contract to keep minimum standards for education. EAGT has higher standards than EAP and EAP has to respect this fact.

About the regulating psychotherapy in Europe: Creating a law in Europe about psychotherapy is an illusion. EU is a federalist organization and there will always be differences between countries. EU has to guarantee that the professional migration of a therapist from one to another country

is possible. EAP is involved in this. The new state has to offer the therapist a way how to continue in his/her practice. If you know about some migration cases and about a case that a therapist cannot continue her/his work in another country, please do contact me and inform me about this case. EAP is gathering examples where migration is not functioning well to bring this to the awareness of the EU Committee.

Ester Neumanova has left the Executive Committee after having been 9 years part of it. Thank you for all your contributions, Ester. As new secretary of EAGT the AGM has elected *Michele Cannavò*. Welcome, Michele!

EAGT is growing. Nevertheless we had to ask the AGM to raise membership fees in order to be able to finance all our activities. Thanks for agreeing to this. And special thanks also to agree on an optional additional fee to support voluntarily the Project of the Human Rights & Social Responsibility Committee in cooperation with the NGO Peace Brigades.

Peter Schulthess

Treasurer's Report

During the Annual General Meeting of September, the present members agreed to raise the membership fee. As treasurer I am very happy with that because due to that all activities, recorded in our policy, can continue. I am thinking hereby of the important work of the HR&SR committee, the committees concerned with the quality, the work needed to maintain the organization and the GPO committee. By increasing the contribution we are also capable to strengthen the financial position of the organization. The financial buffer has been completely disappeared by the deficits of the past few years. We've managed by pulling out all the stops to meet our fi-



financial obligations. For me as a treasurer this does not feel good because we also

have obligations as an employer.

I've candidate myself again as treasurer and during the Annual General Meeting the present members gave their faith to me. It is my last term. At the end of this period I have been a member of the Executive Committee for 9 years. I will make it as my last task to make EAGT financially healthy during the coming three years.

The financial report of 2011 will be made in December of this year and in March or April it will be published in the newsletter. Comments on the estimate are always welcome.

I wish you a prosperous 2011.

Bas Lokerse, Treasurer EAGT

Report from Chair of GPO

Two important points to start with. Firstly during the Annual General Meeting held in Berlin in September the present members approved to the alteration of GPO working group into GPO committee. Secondly the composition of the committee has been changed. Chris Berardi said goodbye to the committee and Christel Seg-ander took over from her. Jan Standaert from Belgium was unanimously elected by the Annual General Meeting as GPO committee member.

During our meeting, held on September 6 and 7, we spoke about the third draft as a document in process. We've discussed about the power of the Gestalt methodology and also the power of Training Institutes and how to place GPO into the labour market. Because nobody knows what GPO is and means. So it is important to make GPO into a strong quality brand. For example the brand Samsung or Volvo.

The umbrella organisation of EAGT is EAP, especially for therapists and there-

fore not useful for GPO's. Therefore our idea is to use ICF (International Coaching Federation) or EMCC (European mentoring & Coaching Council) as umbrella organizations as they are globally attractive. As we're not yet familiar.

We decided during the meeting to discuss 3 topics more intensive, namely pilot projects, the grandparenting procedure and campaigning how to place GPO into market. We want to compare the training standards (third draft) with the training programme of the TI's. Therefore it is necessary to translate all the qualities into measurable standards. We have to stand for quality. This is a process for about 3 years. The first year we will visit the TI and look how they have given shape to their education, in the broadest sense. For example: curriculum, the organization, the methodology and use of literature and the assessments. The second year we ask ourselves do we agree with this kind of training. The third year is meant for feedback.

Our idea is that a training pro-

gramme is dynamic and needs to be renewed every 7 years. In December of this year and in January 2011 two GPO committee members will visit a TI, so we can have a first impression about TI's in our March meeting 2011.

It is our intention to give the grandparenting procedure more body and similarity. We will do this by replacing the log into a file with fixed chapters. During our March meeting we will discuss this further.

It is important to know how many TI's would like to start training for GPO's. Therefore we will start a campaign to put GPO into the market, think hereby of: flyers, sending out letters, website, Newsletter and informative meetings.

If you would like to make use of the grandparenting procedure in order to become a member of EAGT we'd like to hear that from you. Sending a letter of e-mail to our office is enough.

Bas Lokerse
GPO chair

Letter from the Secretary

Dear colleagues,
This is my first report that I write as a new secretary of EAGT. I was elected in Berlin last September in an incredible atmosphere for me. I remember my eyes after Peter's words and the colleagues' smiles and voices. While I'm writing this I'm feeling a lot of tremble in my body.

I have to say that it was a really interesting experience for me to meet all the people that came from EAGT, executive committee and General Board. It has been so wonderful to share something about their countries.

I can say that I started immediately to work on the accreditation of individual members who apply for EAGT membership. In this phase Ester and Marga's support has been very important for me. I think that in this first letter of mine it is important to describe who I am!

I was born in 1976 in Sicily. I'm graduated as Medical Doctor at the University of Catania and after that in Psychia-



try at Psychotherapy. I finished my PhD in Neurovegetative Medicine in Catania. I'm working as psychotherapist and psychiatrist in a therapeutic community for psychotic and borderline patients. I received my training in Gestalt therapy from Gestalt HCC Italy Institute with *Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb* (Director of HCC Italy Institute and representative of the Italian NOGT) and *Gianni*

Francesetti.

I'm doing a training to become a trainer in Gestalt Therapy. In September 2009 I've started a training in Psychosomatic Body Development in New York with *Ruella Frank*. I'm a member of SIPG (Italian NOGT) and SIP (Psychiatry Italian Society). I love photography and I've had a lot of exhibitions and Gestalt Psychotherapy is now present in my shots.

Sure I do a lot of things, so for me it is very important to be in contact with Europe where I can find new ideas!!!

I think it will be important for me to support younger psychotherapists and their thoughts, news and incredible energies...and above all I will inspire them to become members of EAGT.

My best wishes to all of you.

See you soon!

Michele Cannavò
EAGT secretary

Report from the Training Standards Committee

This report is a good occasion for resuming what is going on in the TSC.

In Berlin, the AGM took some relevant decisions about the work of this committee:

- approved the procedure for the TI's re-accreditation;
- approved the procedure for the TI's follow up;
- approved the standards for the supervisor's trainings.

You can find these procedures on our website (section downloads).

Furthermore the AGM was asked to vote on a proposal of reducing the length of the training hours to 45 minutes: the AGM voted for keeping the length as it is, so it remains 60 minutes.

In these months, the TSC is com-



mitted in continuing the process of accreditation of new institutes (we have two applications from France, and some

institutes in the phase of preparation), the re-accreditation of already accredited institutes and the follow up procedure of those accredited institutes that have to fulfil our standards.

During the EAGT conference we had a very lively panel where many issues about our standards were discussed. I'd like to underline the interest shown in developing criteria where there is a combination of quantitative and qualitative standards. That meeting confirmed our intention to build a working group that will start to move in this direction.

I would like to invite all members that are interested in joining this group called 'Professional Competences and Qualitative Standards (PC&QS)', to send an email to me. This group will work in connection with the same group

already functioning within the EAP. As other committees, we may have foreground members, that are willing and available to participate in the meetings, and members in the backroom, that give their contribution as advisors. Please, let me know about projects or relevant literature related to this topic: it would be a good support for all of us.

The first meeting of the PC&QS working group will take place in Am-

sterdam, March 3rd, 2011, from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., with the aim of defining participants, goals, budget, steps and time schedule.

Finally, I want to welcome a new TSC member: *Ester Neumanova* from Prague, former officer for Eastern European Countries and former Secretary of EAGT. So, welcome Ester, I am sure it will be a pleasure to work with you! And I'd like to express a 'thank you very

much' to my colleagues *Nurith Levi, Faye Page, Lidija Pecotic* (and *Ken Evans* in the backroom) for their valuable collaboration!

My best wishes to all of you for a joyful Christmas!

Gianni Francesetti
Chair Training Standards Committee

Letter from the External Relations/NOGT officer

Germany, Berlin, September 2010 and the 10th EAGT Conference.... my first EAGT Conference and my first AGM.

I was a little anxious about it, but very curious and happy at the same time. It will be the place where I'll meet a huge number of gestalt therapists, many members of EAGT and also NOGT representatives.

My days in Berlin were very fruitful, and I fulfilled my job as NOGT's officer all the time. Many things happened in Executive Committee. On one side *Ester Neumanova* isn't with us as a secretary anymore, because after nine years she steps out of the board, but on the other side we have a new secretary now, *Michele Cannavò*. So, Ester, even if I knew you a very short period of time, I'll really miss you, and Michele welcome to the EC, I'm really glad that you are with us!

First of all I would like to thank all the countries that contributed in our survey about the situation in their countries and proposals they gave me as a NOGT officer. Without your feedback my job wouldn't be possible in the way I see it should be.

The situation in European countries about NOGT organizations are very different, and right now we have seven countries in process for OM, 13 countries are already OM (two of them are newly accredited) and three countries of these OM members are invited for reaccreditation. During the conference I spoke with therapists from Denmark



and Finland and they are willing to found a NOGT in their country too, so I would like to invite them again to do so and contact me about all help they might need. I'm here for you!

Also, I would like to remind therapists from Macedonia (FYROM), Greece, Serbia, Poland and Latvia to send us the documents that are missing so they could become an OM as well. As soon as you send it to us you possibly will finish the procedure!

One more thing I would like to point out is that the Hungarian NOGT is working very hard to become our NOGT member and we give many support to them. Also, I'm really glad that after many years France is ready to do some things in their psychotherapy situation and I hope that they will also be-

come our members. So, Catherine and Astrid thank you for all things that you share about the French situation with me and I'm willing to help whenever you would like me to. Besides that, I must say that I'm sorry that the UK situation is the same and that in this moment it will be like it was all this time, but I also hope that some changes will be done when it becomes possible.

At the end I would like to share my experience during the overall conference and about the organization of an event of this kind and to say THANKS to all the members of the organization committee of DVG, because they did a great job! You gave me the great experience of being a part of Gestalt people!

I would like to finish this report with the wish for Poland, the next organizer of EAGT Conference, by expressing this involves much work, experience, support, love, energy, field and time! If you need my PR support you'll know my e-mail address!

Jelena Zeleskov Djoric
NOGTs officer

Report from the HR&SR Committee

At the conference in Berlin last September there was a growing interest for the sociological, political and ecological aspects of our field theory in workshops and lectures. As chair of our committee I'm excited that our Gestalt community re-emphasize the sociological concept of our work. In the opinion of our founders, Gestalt Therapy was not only psychotherapy but also a way of taken responsibility in our society. The current hardening of the political climate at the expense of vulnerable groups in our European society appeals to our responsibility. EAGT can play a valuable role by our committee to support groups and communities that get into repression.

Peace Brigades International (PBI) was present at the conference in Berlin. Two PBI representatives participated in two joint PBI-EAGT workshops to introduce their work and the cooperation with EAGT. We look back at a successful 2 days pilot workshop for training buddies in Zurich last June. We trained a group of 10 former volunteers who worked for one year in conflict areas in the world. We introduced the Gestalt cycle of contact related to emotional problems in different stages of voluntary work and discussed practical aspects and policy issues of buddy work.

From last October we implement an emotional support program for PBI volunteers. 22 volunteer EAGT Gestalt Therapists are in the program to support volunteers on request during their stay in the field and reintegration in their own situation after their fieldwork.

I recall the conference in Venice 20-23 October



2011. This conference is organized by the *HR&SR Committee* and is patronaged by the *European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation* and by the *European Inter University-Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation*. With this conference we aim to acquire awareness, knowledge and instruments concerning social, political and cultural items, and ways to cope with them, both in different situations. All speakers will work for free; the profit of this conference will benefit our HR&SR activities. You find the brochure of this conference on the

homepage of the eagt website. Sign up!!

I'm happy our AGM voted 'yes' for the proposal to introduce an ethical and social levy for all individual members and organisations to support our work. With this decision our Association shows social responsibility.

In our last committee meeting in Berlin we agreed to develop a mission and vision document and a three year strategic plan. Thus we want to chart a course for the coming years and give an answer with our activities to vulnerable groups in the current socio-political era. We will discuss the plans at the next AGM.

I wish you all a joyous 2011 in good health!

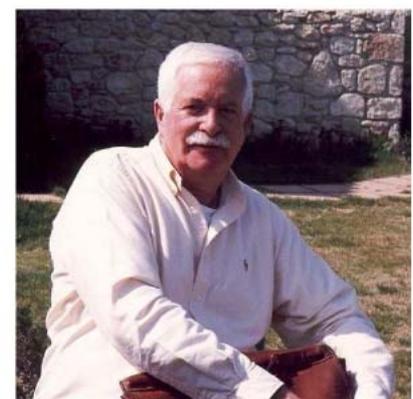
Guus Klaren

Chair HR&SR Committee

A last interview with Harm Siemens.

Transfer € 20,- to our bank account 6038.68.053 mentioning 'DVD H. Siemens' or pay via PayPal (linked to our website) www.eagt.org and the DVD will be send to you.

By purchasing this DVD you will support the Human Rights & Social Responsibility Committee!



Farewell Harm

EAGT

Berlin: exchanging experiences with ethics

Berlin, Saturday September 11th, 9.30 hrs., Hotel Estrel, 6th floor: *You should be ethical*, workshop and gathering of colleagues working in Ethics Committees.

The EAGT Ethics committee initiated this meeting to gather people interested in ethic issues. We look for answers to this basic question: how can we (members of ethics committees in European NOGT's and training institutes) support each other? We want to learn from each other not to invent a wheel again and again.

Colleagues from Belgium, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands and Sweden meet for a discussion about ethics and the work of ethics committees. First they introduce themselves and explain the way they personally are connected to professional ethics.

We, the organizing committee, were a bit disappointed that so few countries participated.

But we want to help ourselves and others, by taking a positive stand. Rome was not built in one day, neither was facebook. So maybe we just need to keep the ball in motion, until our energy is mobilized again.

We, members of the EAGT Ethics Committee, *Joppie Bakker*, *Glenn Rolfesen* and *Jan Roubal* introduced ourselves. Joppie also stressed this unique opportunity, in which this was not a meeting with representatives, but an exchange between colleagues. As a matter of fact, it was an historical event in EAGT-history. For the first time committee members had a "sit down". Every participant was glad to be there, and they were curious as to how other countries viewed the codes of ethics, the ethics committees, how they function, and questions like: do the dilemmas in my country appear in other countries etc. The need for such a gathering was most sought after, and it was the right time to do so, in Berlin 2010.

Glenn Rolfesen has summarized the



outcome of the questionnaire that was sent out to all of the NOGTs ethics committees in Europe **. Unfortunately, only a few responded. First of all it is a bit difficult to give a short summary of the questionnaires we received. We might fall in the trap of generalizing. However, we would like to give you a taste of what the countries wrote. When we asked the countries what kind of tasks the ethics committee were occupied with, they described that they review, prepare and revise the ethical code and handle complaints. They also serve as an advisory body for the members of each association.

One country described that they only have the "law of protection of personal data". A few countries said that their NOGT's did not have separate regulations for psychotherapists or gestalt-therapists, because the government law regulates that for them. Or the umbrella associations had regulations in which they follow, like the NAO. Some are oriented and follow other associations, like the National Psychology Association.

One thing they have in common is the mission to protect their members, and not so much the members' clients. We find that to be an interesting phenomenon. Another common significance was the desire for more interest and resources to the NOGT/board/

committees.

We think this phenomenon should be outspoken in one way or another. We wonder if this is something most countries recognize? Some associations are vital and strong, some are not that vital. Some wrote that a vital organization is most likely to have an ethics code and resources to fulfill them.

Joppie Bakker presents the dilemma which our committee experiences (and maybe this goes also for other ethics committees) between the gestalt approach at one hand and the rules and procedures described in our code of ethics in the other hand.

Gestalt therapy did not start as a therapeutic modality but as a movement in which personal growth was the essential goal. And growth, like *Rollo May* stated in 1972, is not a good basis for ethics because growth is neither good nor bad.

Our founders seemed to be occupied more with personal freedom than with ethics. And in large parts of our theory and also in our therapy-rooms we seem to have kept judgements at a distance, whereas in our professional organisations we have to welcome and integrate them, like *Peter Phillipson* writes in his book "Self in relation".

Gestalt therapists do not have – in general – a history of working together in a peaceful and cooperative way. In many countries it is very hard and sometimes impossible to settle professional national organizations. But once they are there, they not only need to design training standards and a code of ethics, but also to execute procedures like complaints and appeal. By doing this, in the end colleagues cannot avoid to judge each other's actions.

In short, there seems to be a tension between our approach in which dialogue and contact are vital values and procedures like complaints and appeal, needed in our professional organizations

Jan Roubal states that ethics means

to him a way of permanent balancing, balancing between freedom and responsibility, balancing between needs of the organism and needs of the environment (other people, society, nature). We can imagine a ropewalker in a circus. He needs to move all the time, be flexible, and he needs to hold a stick to keep balance. Dealing with ethic issues we need to be flexible and moving, because the conditions are always unique. And we have a stick – our ethics codes – to help us keep balance (but not to immobilize us – when the ropewalker becomes frozen, he falls).

We can see ethics as glasses that we use to look at therapeutic situation. Usually we look at it with glasses that watch the therapeutic process of raising awareness and quality of contact. Eventually we can put “glasses of ethics” and watch the balancing of need of the organism and needs of the environment. For example, working with a client’s introject “I should not be aggressive” might lead to his free expression of aggression (value of self-development). This might lead to his aggressive behaviour at home and break-up of his family (value of responsibility for the conditions for children).

Ethical dilemma is just another word for balancing. Ethical dilemma means there is no right way to solve the problematic situation. There is a conflict between two competing values. What we can do is not to look for right answers but to develop our sensitivity to the ethical issues.

All attendants share their experiences with ethics in general and how this is approached in their different countries. They discuss dilemma’s they meet in their work. One of them stresses that the code of ethics kind of frightens her: so many conditions one has to fulfil. Another participant expresses her fear to be rigid in ethical matters, since in her country there is a tendency to be absolute. Many of those present stress that mutual exchange in building code and procedures would be most welcome, so they exchange email addresses and as far as we know some of them are now in touch with each other fruitfully. For

the EAGT ethics committee it is very instructive and of great value to get confirmed that our job should not be only one of controlling and scrutinizing documents, but most of all to help and support the people we work with.

Members Ethics Committee:

Joppie Bakker (acting chair),
Glenn Rolfsen and
Jan Roubal

**If you would like a more specific summary, we will be glad to send you one.

Reports from European Countries

AUSTRIA

Beatrix Wimmer

Dear Colleagues!
Autumn has started with the EAGT Conference in Berlin, very well organized and full of opportunities for meeting colleagues and friends as well as getting in touch with the latest developments in Gestalt therapy – not only in Europe, but also all over the world. An excellent experience!

In Vienna our year started with a cooperative event between the OEVG and two psychoanalytic organisations, the WPV and the WAP, staging a dramatic reading of Anna Koellreuter’s book *Wie benimmt sich der Professor Freud eigentlich?* (How does Professor Freud actually behave?).

Anna Koellreuter is a psychoanalyst in Zurich who found her grandmother’s (“Anna G.”) diary after the latter’s death. The diary was comprised of the notes “Anna G.” took during her own psychoanalysis with *Sigmund Freud* in 1921 in Vienna. Anna Koellreuter transformed her grandmother’s notes into the above-mentioned book. It was upon this book that the script for the dramatic reading, performed by two actors, was based. It was a great success with around 175 participants and, above all, our OEVG President, *Nancy Amendt-Lyon*, held the opening speech in the Psychoanalytic Academy in Vienna!

Reference: Anna Kollreuter (Hg.), *Sie streifen so nah am Geheimnis*. Bei Sig-

mund Freud auf der Couch. Aus dem Tagebuch der Schweizer Analysandin Anna G. Psychosozial Verlag, Gießen, 2009

November will bring a post-graduate workshop conducted by *Achim Votsmeier* from Germany about *Borderline and other personality disorders within gestalt therapeutic treatment*.

There is a lot of interest in that concept and the workshop is fully booked!

In April 2011 *Frank Staemmler* will give a workshop in Vienna on his ideas on empathy in Gestalt therapy, based on his latest book *Das Geheimnis des Anderen – Empathie in der Psychotherapie* (The secret of the other: empathy in psychotherapy). There are still openings available for those interested!

As a special offer, OEVG members have organized a “Gestalt Forum” as a platform for all Gestalt therapists – graduates or trainees – in Vienna, to discuss relevant topics concerning therapeutic as well as personal and (socio-) political topics.

Once more I want to use the opportunity to call your attention to the upcoming third *D-A-CH – Tagung*. Colleagues from Germany, Switzerland and Austria are very busy planning the event

for November 2011 in Vienna. The conference is dedicated to Paul Goodman's birthday centennial: *Paul Goodman zum 100. Geburtstag*

(www.paulgoodmantagung.org).

We are looking forward to welcome Paul Goodman's daughter, *Susan Goodman*, and *Jonathan Lee* will present his film on Paul Goodman, so there will be a European screening premiere taking place as well!

Save the date: 11-13 November 2011 and come to Vienna! Send us your workshop or (mini-) lecture proposals: info@paulgoodmantagung.org

Find more details about our activities on our website: www.oevg-gestalt.at

With best wishes for a fruitful and happy autumn and winter 2010/11 from Vienna!

SWITZERLAND

Dieter Bongers
SVG Basel

From Switzerland Tribute to Paul Goodman – 2011 is a year to honour him.

Paul Goodman (September 9, 1911 – August 2, 1972) was an American sociologist, poet, writer, anarchist, and public intellectual.

Goodman was a pacifist and anarchist whose beliefs, expressed in prose, poetry, and social criticism, helped shape the doctrine of the New Left of the 1960s. Committed to personal and sexual freedom, he believed that society's institutions inhibited innate human creativity, caring, and nonviolence. His writings covered a wide range of topics – education, city planning, psychotherapy, and literary criticism – reflecting some of the varied careers he had while continuing to work for social change.

During the Indochina War, Paul Goodman was a staunch supporter of the Resistance to the Draft movement and its participants, an articulate proponent of a mass-based nonviolent movement against the War.

He refused to be a Guru, even in the 60's, when he was very popular in the

states – he did not want to become a political leader.

In 2011 the NOGTs of Switzerland, Germany and Austria will celebrate Goodman's Birthday, see the invitation on: www.paulgoodmantagung.org/web-site/

If you want to know more about Paul's thinking, here is a short part of his work: *The Black Flag of Anarchism* <http://recollectionbooks.com/siml/library/GoodmanBlackFlag.htm>

Anarchism is grounded in a rather definite proposition: that valuable behaviour occurs only by the free and direct response of individuals or voluntary groups to the conditions presented by the historical environment. It claims that in most human affairs, whether political, economic, military, religious, moral, pedagogic, or cultural, more harm than good results from coercion, top-down direction, central authority, bureaucracy, jails, conscription, states, pre-ordained standardization, excessive planning, etc.

Anarchists want to increase intrinsic functioning and diminish extrinsic power. This is a social-psychological hypothesis with obvious political implications. Depending on varying historical conditions that present various threats to the anarchist principle, anarchists have laid their emphasis in varying places: sometimes agrarian, sometimes free city and guild-oriented; sometimes technological, sometimes anti technological; sometimes Communist, sometimes affirming property; sometimes individualist, sometimes collective; sometimes speaking of Liberty as almost an absolute good, sometimes relying on custom and "nature."

Nevertheless, despite these differences, anarchists seldom fail to recognize one another, and they do not consider the differences to be incompatibilities. Consider a crucial modern problem, violence. Guerrilla fighting has been a classical anarchist technique: yet where, especially in modern conditions, and violent means tends to reinforce centralism and authoritarianism, anarchists have tended to see the beauty of non-violence.

Now the anarchist principle is by and large true.' And far from being "utopian" or a "glorious failure," it has proved itself and won out in many spectacular historical crises. In the period of mercantilism and patents royal, free enterprise by joint stock companies was anarchist. The Jeffersonian bill of rights and independent judiciary was anarchist. Congregational churches were anarchist. Progressive education was anarchist. The free cities and corporate law in the feudal system was anarchist. At present, the civil rights movement in the United States has been almost classically decentralist and anarchist. And so forth, down to details like free access in public libraries.

Of course, to later historians these things do not seem to be anarchist, but in their own time they were all regarded as such and often literally called such, with the usual dire threats of chaos. But this relativity of the anarchist principle to the actual situation is of the essence of anarchism.

There cannot be a history of anarchism in the sense of establishing a permanent state of things called "anarchist." It is always a continual coping with the next situation, and a vigilance to make sure that past freedoms are not lost and do not turn into the opposite, as free enterprise turned into wage-slavery and monopoly capitalism, or the independent judiciary turned into a monopoly of courts, cops, and lawyers, or free education turned into School Systems.

Norway

Liv Åse Espeland and Ida Wadel

Two months have passed since we met in Berlin and November in Oslo is cold, dark and there is snow and ice on the ground.

We are both relieved and disappointed that we did not get the conference in 2013, and we are all looking forward to Krakow. Inspired by the conference in Berlin, combined with a need to direct our energy towards something else, we now prepare for a mini-conference for our members. The conference will be in

connection with our AGM in March.

The main theme at the conference is to explore who we are as an association today, and what is our main focus ahead. We will continue the debate: Do we want to work towards authorization possibilities? Whether the answer is yes or no, we think the process will be useful and clarifying. We wish to give space to the diversity of competence among our own members.

At our AGM last March we decided on new complaints procedure, and we organized a complaints committee. The board is no longer directly involved in the complaints. The consequence is that we have more time and energy to focus on other important tasks.

As earlier mentioned 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). Our aim is to be more active in both organizations. We are therefore proud to tell that the new leader in NFP is Gestalt therapist, *Siri M. Andersen*.

Norway is not a large country, but a

long country. That makes it a challenge for NGF to be an organization for all of our members, not only for our members around the capital Oslo. This autumn, for the first time in NGF's history, we arrange the same workshop in Stavanger (South), Tromsø (North) as in Oslo. The theme is "Existential and inhibitory anxiety", and the theme is obviously a hit – all our workshops are fully booked and we will arrange an extra workshop in Oslo to meet the need.

Until next time...

ITALY SIPG

The *Società Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt (SIPG)*, the Italian NOGT, has created an ethical committee, as requested by the EAGT. Since in Italy the profession of psychotherapy is regulated by law, we have already an official ethical code for psychotherapists and registered ethical committees inside the council of psychologists and medical doctors. To have an ethical committee inside the Italian NOGT is important in order to open a dialogue on ethical issues among gestalt

psychotherapists. Conferences will be a good place where to have this dialogue.

Speaking of conferences, we have published the first flyer of the Italian conference which will be held in Palermo, in December 9-11, 2011. The title is "Suffering and beauty: from psychopathology to the aesthetics of contact". All directors of Italian training institutes will participate and Frank Staemmler will be the guest of honor of the "open day" of the conference. If you would like to participate go to: www.sipg.it.

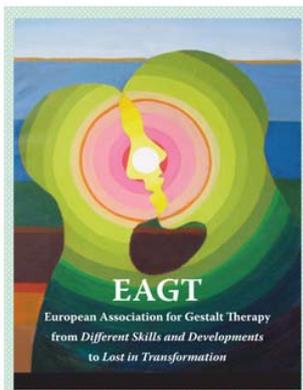
A good news for Italian gestalt therapists is that the new Secretary of the EAGT is Italian! He is a Sicilian Psychiatrist, one of my best students. Good luck to Michele Cannavò for his new job. The EAGT will be surely enriched by his professional and personal style, and by his amusing spirit.

The Newsletter of SIPG (NewsSipg is the title) which is published twice a year, continues to help all members to get information about events in the EAGT and in the SIPG.

Finally, the first seminar of the International Training in Gestalt Psychopathology, held by Gianni Francesetti and me in Rome, ended just two days ago. It was a touching and nourishing experience, where 25 European expert psychotherapist were able to find their selves in depth of human encounters.

With a deep and proud feeling of belonging to our gestalt community,

Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb



Transfer € 20,- to our bank account

6038.68.053 mentioning 'jubilee book' or pay via PayPal (linked to our web-

site) www.eagt.org. and the book will be sent to you.

1985 –2010 25 years EAGT

Purchase this richly illustrated jubilee book for € 20,= and support our HR&SR (Human Rights & Social Responsibility) Committee.

EAGT

EAGT Membership

New Members 2010

<i>Anne-Grethe Mathiesen</i>	Denmark	OM
<i>Giancarlo Pintus</i>	Italy	OM
<i>Katarina Binder</i>	Germany	OM
<i>Marianne Kuhni</i>	Switzerland	OM
<i>Marija Stojkoska-Vasilevska</i>	Macedonia	OM
<i>Karanfilova Pavlina</i>	Macedonia	OM
<i>Elena Krivková</i>	Czech Republic	OM
<i>Tom-Sture Juelsen</i>	Norway	OM
<i>Marica Dobnik-Žerjav</i>	Slovenia	OM
<i>Božena Razlog</i>	Croatia	OM
<i>Mijo Marić</i>	Croatia	OM
<i>Monika Brzezińska-Okoń</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Jolanta Cieplińska</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Rita Ubel Ytterdahl</i>	Norway	OM
<i>Riittaleena Ahlqvist-Bergström</i>	Norway	OM
<i>Jolanta Szczucińska</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Dorota Janiak</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Petros Theodorou</i>	Greece	OM
<i>Nadezhda Lubyanskaya</i>	Russia	OM
<i>Rezeda Popova</i>	Russia	OM
<i>Michele Cannavò</i>	Italy	OM
<i>Berit Bårdsen</i>	Norway	OM
<i>Olaf Zielke</i>	Germany	OM
<i>Tomasz Rebeta</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Izabela Osinśka</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Renata Proca</i>	Poland	OM
<i>Marija Stauperl</i>	Slovenia	OM
<i>Liv Åse Espeland</i>	Norway	OM

New GPO members

<i>Petr Pražák</i>	Czech Republic
<i>Pavel Slezák</i>	Czech Republic
<i>Ester Neumanova</i>	Czech Republic

New Training Institute(s):

<i>Gestalt+</i>	France	AM
<i>AGL de ILFC</i>	France	AM

Abbreviations explained:

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



*We all wish you a
 peaceful and harmo-
 nious Holiday season
 and a Happy New
 Year 2011!*

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>