

Letter from the President

It is still a pleasure to chair EAGT. I see EAGT as a vivid organization, growing and differentiating. We have a growing amount of members, individual as well as institutional members.

All committees are developing fruitful activities. We have now a new category of membership with GPO's (Gestalt Practitioner in Organizations), which gives them a more clear professional identity. The Human Rights & Social Responsibility Committee held an inspiring and successful conference in Venice this October. Thanks to the local organizers! The benefit of this conference will be used for the activities of the HR&SR Committee in the project with PBI (Peace Brigades International). The AGM has approved a commitment of cooperating with PBI which is a great step for EAGT, not only to speak and write about social responsibility but also to get involved in a project of another NGO which protects human rights defenders. The TSC and the Ethics Committee are busy with the reaccreditations of our institutes and checking procedures of them. The Research Committee has started activities in supporting research projects – you will find more details in the separate reports of these committees. I want to thank all involved persons for their great contribution.

As president one of my tasks is to coordinate all these activities and to be available for all officers and committees, when some difficulties appear in their resort. In this way I am regularly assisting the secretary, the chair of NOGT and this year also the Ethics Committee, due



to limited capacity of the members for health and other reasons.

One of the highlights was for sure the EAGT conference in September 2010 – I am looking forward to the next one in Krakow 2013.

I would like to mention also another activity: We were contacted in 2010 by an association affiliated to an university in Tbilisi, Georgia, to support them in building up a Gestalttherapy training. As it was (for financial reasons) not possible for them to come to Berlin to speak about this more elaborated during the congress, we decided to send two members of the Executive Committee to offer them a first workshop and investigate the situation and their needs. Finally *Esther Neumanova* and *Ernst Knijff* went as delegates from EAGT to run this workshop. They gave them an introductory workshop, a taste of Gestalt therapy, and they showed them that a training is not just consisting in some workshops, but

in a continuing learning process, based on a program. Finally, and as there were also interested persons from outside Georgia (Armenia), this ended up in the project of building up a Caucasian Gestalt Institute with the support of trainers from EAGT accredited institutes. I am very happy about this development and wish the future Caucasian Institute a good success.

From Poland a letter from an individual has reached us (it was sent to an unknown number of addresses), that criticised EAGT activities without naming detailed actions. The sender was using a conflict in one of the EAGT accredited institutes to go public with details and generalizing his critics also on EAGT. We have answered the person and have contacted all mentioned Polish organizations to investigate the background of this action. It seems to be an isolated action. We hope that this public acting out will stop now and will not have a bad impact on the conference in Poland.

Finally I would like to say a word to a lack of involvement of Gestalt therapists to the scientific community in psychotherapy research. I was attending the SPR (*Society for Psychotherapy Research*) congress in June 2011 and discovered, that there is a great interest on emotion focussed psychotherapy, but no presentation about Gestalt therapy. *Jan Roubal* and me were there, presenting on other research topics and thought that it is really a missed chance of Gestalt therapists, not to participate and present in such an environment. We do not have to be astonished, if the community of psychotherapy researchers starts to forget

about Gestalt therapy, if we do not show up on such events. Please pay attention to the letter of Jan and me in this newsletter, reporting from this conference.

I was visiting, in representation, of EAGT also the *World Conference for Psychotherapy* in Sydney in August 2011. This was a great and impressive event with contributions also from aboriginal healers. It gave me the opportunity to contact and exchange also with some representatives of our sister organization GANZ (*Gestalt Association Australia and New Zealand*). I suggest you to reserve the date for the next world conference.

It will be held 25-28 August, 2014 in Durban, South Africa.

And one last word: You may have noticed the big interest of Chinese to Gestalt therapy, when a Chinese delegation from several universities has visited the EAGT conference in Berlin. It looks like the official delegate from the ministry for education gave his OK to allow Chinese universities to teach Gestalt therapy. Over the German institute I am teaching for Switzerland I am involved now in a 3 years training program in two different Chinese towns. Next spring there will be founded a Chinese

Association for Gestalt therapy and the first „*International Symposium on Gestalt therapy*“ will be held in Nanjing, China (6-8 April, 2012). They will also start to edit a Chinese Journal for Gestalt therapy. It is fascinating to participate on this development in China.

I am looking forward to my remaining time of presidency before stepping down in September 2012.

Peter Schulthess

President

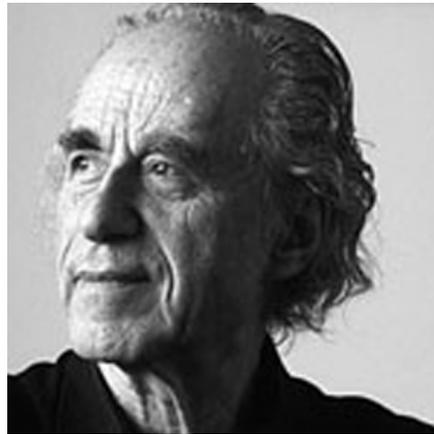
Serge Ginger in Memoriam

At our General Meeting in September in Zurich we have honoured *Serge Ginger* for his outstanding contribution during his whole life in the field of Gestalt therapy with the Honorary Membership. We knew already then, that he was struggling with serious health problems, which did not allow him to come to Zurich. He told me on the phone, when he had to tell me, he could not travel, „I would have loved to come personally to Zurich, but I feel it is too late now. My body does not function any more the way it should. But I feel really honoured, that EAGT offers me the honorary membership“.

Two of his friends, *Vincent Beja* and *Catherine Loury* where at the AGM to accept the certificate of honorary membership and they brought it to him in Paris. They have recorded the little ceremony we had and gave him also the video. Serge thanked me later for this and has published the ceremony-video on his website www.sergeginger.net.

Of course we hoped, he would recover again, but on 2nd of November we have received the sad message from *Gonzague Masquelier*, his successor at the institute EPG, that Serge has died late in the evening of November 1st.

Serge was 83 years old. He was educated as Clinical psychologist. His first training in Gestalt therapy was done



mostly in USA (Esalen, Gestalt Institute of San Francisco, Cleveland), every summer between 1970 and 1982, with: *Abraham Levitsky, Richard & Christine Price, Paul Rebillot, Alan Schwartz, Gedeon Schwartz, Celia Thompson, Joan Fiore, Erv & Miriam Polster, Joseph Zinker*, etc.

He has participated on many workshops in Europe, lead by: *Petrushka Clarkson, Edoardo Giusti, Alberto Rams, Jean-Marie Robine, Noël Salathé, Gilles Delisle, Daan van Baalen, Lidija Pecotic*, etc.

Between 1971 and 1981, he started to practice Gestalt therapy himself and led 2 intensive 3 days workshops every month, gathering 2,000 different participants, in Paris and several main towns in France.

In 1981, with his wife *Anne Ginger*, he founded *EPG (École Parisienne de Gestalt)* which trains professional Gestalt

therapists in a 5 years program of 1,500 hours. Today EPG has become one of the most important Gestalt Training Centres in the world. It has trained 1,400 practitioners from different countries, where in the meantime new training institutes have been founded.

The same year (1981), he founded *SFG (Société Française de Gestalt, or French National Society for Gestalt Therapy)* – which gathers actually 300 members. It was the first national association for Gestalt Therapy in the world. Afterwards, he actively participated in the founding of National Associations in Spain, Canada, Russia, Latvia and Ukraine.

In 1991, he founded *FORGE (Fédération internationale des Organismes de Formation à la Gestalt, or International Federation of Gestalt Training Organizations)* – which gathers today 30 Training institutes from 20 countries, all over the world. The aim was and still is, to exchange experiences in teaching between representatives of these institutes and to contribute in this way to better training.

In 1985 he was (in relation with *Hilarion Petzold*) one of the founding members of EAGT. He participated in many European Congresses: 1992: Paris; 1995: Cambridge; 1998: Palermo; 2001: Stockholm; 2004: Prague; 2007:

Athens; 2010: Berlin. At each of these congresses, he gave lectures and workshops on different topics: dream work, Ferenczi the “grandfather” of Gestalt (as Serge called him), EMDR and GT, Neurosciences and GT, etc.

Serge has taught Gestalt therapy (in French, English and Russian) besides France in 24 other countries: Belgium, Belorussia, Brazil, Canada, China, Greece, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malta, Martinique, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA.

He gave more than 100 lectures in many congresses and universities. He taught Gestalt therapy in several French public and private universities: Paris 7, Paris 8, Paris 10, SFU Paris, Lyon, Nantes; in a dozen French cities, and in many foreign towns: Athens, Barcelona, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest,

Cambridge, Dublin, Guadalajara, Krakow, Lviv, Madrid, Milano, Montreal, Moscow, Peking, Riga, Rio-de-Janeiro, Rome, Sao Paulo, San Francisco, Sienna, St Petersburg, Stockholm, Tokyo, Vienna, Vladivostok...

He worked as supervisor in France and in different countries. He taught psychopathology, since 1982.

All together, since 40 years, he led around 50,000 hours of Gestalt therapy groups.

Serge authored or co-authored 27 books; many of them are translated into several languages.

One of them: *Gestalt Therapy, The Art of Contact*, is published in 15 languages: French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Russian, Polish, Romanian, Latvian, Ukrainian, Macedonian, Serbian, Greek, Japanese, Chinese. 100,000 copies have been sold. He wrote 150 articles and published in 22 countries.

Serge was one of the most active members in EAP. He has served as Registrar for many years. When he stepped back this February, the Secretary General of EAP, *Alfred Pritz*, expressed, that he is sure, that the European Gestalt community appreciates his commitment to Gestalt therapy in spreading it all over the world and giving Gestalt therapy also within EAP an important position.

Being aware of all this, the AGM had no hesitation to honour Serge for his really outstanding contribution in the field of Gestalt therapy. We loose with him a very important member of the Gestalt Community, who has influenced so many of us that have been educated by him or have cooperated with him. We wish his wife Anne, his children and grandchildren all the best to get over this loss.

Peter Schulthess

Letter from the Secretary

Dear colleagues,
It's a big pleasure for me to write here for you and show you what I have done in this period for the EAGT.

I feel always new emotions, new awariness and writing here in my role of secretary of our organization. I'm very excited. It's fantastic how I feel very much 'the ground' of everyone, it's like a fresh air for my thoughts.

During this period it was for me a cool experience to have the possibility to stay in contact with so many people and share a lot of information with them. I'm continuing to be a bit worried for the responsibility but I think that it is good to increase my attention and awareness, anyway I'm glad of this role. In this second period I have scrutinized about 30 applications: 18 individual members, 12 re-registration, 8 supervisor applications but also scrutinizing 2 professional organization that have already started a process of accreditation. Most applica-



tions were very easy to scrutinize due to the accredited training institutes but there are a lot of not accredited institute, this takes some time before everything is completed.

With regards to the scrutinizing of Supervisor (SV) applications it's important to clarify that to be an accredited supervisor it is necessary to be a Full Member, so only after that a member

can apply for being an accredited supervisor and after that I can scrutinize if s/he fullfills the criteria for SV and if yes s/he becomes also an accredited SV.

'The ground' of the Executive Committee is very important for me and I want to thank you for this experience of full contact. The support and help of *Marga Berends*, office manager, is indispensable and the connection to my colleagues from the board.

My best wishes to all of you for each moments of your life.

Michele Cannavò
EAGT secretary

Treasurer's Report

Suddenly I realize that it is actually a worse chosen time to write a piece about finances just before the end of the year. A moment that is not yet known how we as an organization have done well this year. Various refunds have yet to be paid. Some members have not paid their dues despite to the sent reminders to do so. The money on the account is not the actual money that EAGT has at its disposal. Part of the money is 'earmarked' and is intended for one of the projects of the HR&SR committee. You have donated that money by paying 10% extra on top of the fee.

As far as I can judge at this moment



we will finish the year with a positive balance. The financial report for 2011 with the budget for 2012 will be made in January 2012 and in April 2012 it will be posted on the website but also in the newsletter of May 2012. Comments are always welcome to the budget. I wish you a prosperous 2012 and make something beautiful out of it.

Bas Lokerse
Treasurer

Report from the Ethics committee

Dear colleagues, the year 2011 was and is a difficult year for several members of our committee. We struggled with health problems, of ourselves and our beloved ones. Happily *Peter Schulthes* helped us out and *Beatrix Wimmer* from Austria joined our committee. This is our good news. Unfortunately *Glenn Rolfsen* had to step down. We want to thank him for his contributions and his friendship. We will miss you a lot Glenn!

Practically spoken we completed the processing and approval of the Codes of ethics and Complaints procedures of the Hungarian and Polish NOGT's. We are still in process with the Latvian NOGT and the French speaking Belgium NOGT. As EAGT Ethics Committee we have learned that in our procedures we must not only protect the complainant, but also the member complaint against. And since this can happen to all of us, it is very important that this member is not in a way – even a very subtle way – convicted before his or her trial. So his or her anonymity must be protected as much as possible and as few people as possible must know about the complaint or possible complaint. Sometimes one is inclined to inform board members about



a possible complaint. Especially in small organizations that can be dangerous.

We do not only focus on NOGT's but also on training institutes and professional organisations. Training institutes have also an obligation to establish a complaint procedure, which is known and accessible to their staff and their students. So we are in contact with our Training Standards Committee on this one.

This year we also were discussing the matter of the double hats, with some members in our midst. I believe that, like in the rest of society, we in our Ge-

stalt organizations have to deal with this pretty much. Our Code of Ethics is clear on the topic of role confusion. One cannot be a therapist and a supervisor of the same student. One cannot address a complaint to a person who is part of the situation one wants to complain about. One cannot work in a complaint committee if the complaint is against the institute where you work. And so on.

Personally in ethical matters I have two hats: I am a member of the ethics committee in the Netherlands and I am the chair of the EAGT Ethics Committee. So I never can be involved in scrutinizing or approving documents written by colleagues of 'my' NOGT. On the other hand: being involved in ethical matters in the Dutch NOGT means a great help for my work in EAGT.

One basic principle that we discussed is: bring the issue in the open. Double hats cannot always be avoided and sometimes they are even beneficiary. But everyone needs to know and the consequences have to be discussed.

We wish you all the best in these last months of 2011, and of course in the year 2012! On behalf of *Jan Roubal* and *Beatrix Wimmer*,

Joppie Bakker

Want to be a new member of the Ethics Committee?

The EAGT Ethics Committee consists of 4 persons but due to health reasons 2 of them had to step back and therefore we are looking for new candidates who are willing to work on voluntary basis as members of the Ethics Committee. The work is mostly done by e-mail. 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.**

Job description:

Is responsible for the execution of the Code of Ethics and

the Complaints and Appeals Procedure;

Facilitates periodically – 3 or 5 years – the review of the Code of Ethics in the light of practical application and, if necessary, make recommendations of change;

Is responsible for maintaining an overview of the Code of Ethics and Complaints Procedures for NOGT's and, if relevant, NAO's (this is a quote from our Code);

Is responsible for judging Ethical Codes and Complaints Procedures by Training institutes, NOGT's, and if relevant NAO's in the process of EAGT accreditation and review them in the light of the EAGT Ethical Code and Complaints Procedures;

Can give advice – asked or not – or comments concerning ethical matters within the EAGT;

Seeks to exchange cultural views and practices concerning ethical aspects of the work of Gestalt therapists, between the various nations of the EAGT members and their organisations;

Seeks ways to stimulate discussions about ethics in articles, workshops and panels within the EAGT.

The current situation is that the ethics committee consist now of 2 persons therefore it is preferred that the new officer is available – if possible – with effect of January, 2012.

Report from the Training Standards Committee

Dear colleagues and friends,
 a short report from my side: in these months, the TSC has continued to work on new accreditations, there are some institutes that are preparing their documents and we are in the process of accrediting a French Institute. This will be the 26th EAGT accredited Training Institute.

We are also going on with the re-accreditation of already accredited institutes and the follow up procedure of those accredited institutes that have to make some changes in order to fulfil our standards. We are expecting a lot of work concerning re-accreditations in 2012 and 2013, because many institutes were accredited in 2007 and 2008.



I want to invite all of you, involved at different levels in training institutes, to encourage them to enter in the process of accreditation: this would support the quality of our trainings and of our professional community.

Finally, I want to thank my colleagues of the TSC committee: *Faye Page, Lidija Pecotic, Nurith Levi, Ester Neumanova* and *Ken Evans* (backroom member).

My best wishes to all of you for a nice winter, see you in Amsterdam!

Gianni Francesetti
 Chair Training Standards Committee

Report PC&QS working group

Dear all,
 As I have already described in the previous newsletter, the working group on Professional Competences & Qualitative Standards has been set up with the goal of defining the professional competence of a Gestalt therapist. The EAP has already established a group with the aim of defining the competence of a psychotherapist (Peter Schulthess is one of its members). This is necessary in order to establish what a therapist is capable to do and what a client/customer can expect from her/him. This can also have an impact on the possibility to recognize a psychotherapist when s/he migrates in another European country. The EAP group is describing the core competences: what a psychotherapist must be able to do regardless

to her/his modality. And this is a very good starting point for the EAGT working group that will develop the specific competences characteristic of a Gestalt therapist.

This development may have an impact on our training standards too, we already have quantitative standards and a list of contents that a training program must have, but to clarify the competences can help to assess the quality of a training. Furthermore, it will support to understand our approach as a complex, well developed and theoretically grounded method and our work as a thoroughly way of dealing with the relationship in the here and now. With the description of competences we can improve the assessment of trainees too, and trainers and supervisors can rely on

a common ground of competences that are explicitly defined.

The group is now writing the first draft of the specific competences of a Gestalt therapist, it is a difficult and very creative process, and I hope we have a first paper before the next General Board meeting in Amsterdam. Then we will find a way to share, chew and elaborate this draft with all people interested in this process.

Thank you very much to the active members of this working group: *Jelena Zeleskov-Djoric, Jan Roubal, Daan Van Baalen, Ivana Vidakovic, Beatrix Wimmer.*

Warm regards and best wishes,

Gianni Francesetti

Chair of the PC&QS working group

Update tasks GPO committee

During the past year the GPO committee has worked hard to make the Gestalt Practitioner in Organizations visible, both inside and outside the EAGT, call it a two-track policy. The inward track focuses on: regulations, organisation, training profile, certification and recertification. The outward track focuses on: public relations, website, GPO as a brand, affiliation with other organizations and creating a logo for certified GPO's.

Again, the Committee examined the re-registration procedure of the GPO. As you may know, the first generation GPO's are invited to for re-registration. Quality is important for the GPO committee. The underlying idea is that a GPO who wants to re-register her/himself proves that s/ he still has her/his specialty and s/he continued to develop her/himself in their profession. Following comments from the field such

as: 'you ask too much', 'this is much too detailed', 'we have already shown during the registration that we meet the requirements' etc. we have paid attention to the re-registration during our meeting in September again. After an animated discussion on content, weighing pro's and contra's, we decided to adapt the re-registration. We also decided to not call it re-registration anymore but re-certification. As a basis the following three questions are important for us:

What (GPO)-activities did you practise since your last (re)-certification? (coaching – consulting etc.)

What activities have you done in order to continuously educate yourself? (supervision – intervention – trainings – visit conferences / congresses.)

What makes it interesting for you to become re-certified as GPO?

Based on the aforementioned questions Marga created a form that can be

downloaded from the EAGT website: www.eagt.org/gp_downloads.htm.

During the upcoming meeting of members which will be held in Krakow in September 2012 we will ask you to agree to this method of recertification for GPO's.

Last but not least...with pride we present the newly designed logo for GPO's!!! The logo was first presented at the Annual General Meeting in Zurich. The creation of the logo is in line with the logos used by the EAGT accredited training institutes. The logo may be used by all certified GPO members of EAGT on their website, letterhead, etc. It has been sent to all our GPO members but you can have a look as well as it is presented here:



Bas Lokerse
 GPO chair

Letter from the External Relations/NOGT officer

Dear colleagues,
My report will be shorter this time, but despite of that I must say that I'm really satisfied with the work Marga and I did the last six months. So, let's begin with the good news...

In the last six months three countries became Ordinary members of EAGT:

Greece

Denmark

Macedonia (FYROM).

Congratulation to them and I welcome you as OM NOGT's! In the process for OM are now four countries: Latvia, Serbia, Poland and Spain. I hope that next year some of them will also become OM.

In the area of re-registration there is also news as Switzerland became re-registered. Congratulation to them as well! At the moment three countries are in process for re-registration: Germany, Netherlands and Belgium. I'm sure that at the beginning of 2012 they will become re-registered.

We are in contact with Finland and Slovakia about establishing NOGT's in these countries. Also we are waiting for details of Hungary, because they are in process of establishing a NOGT. Hopefully we will have at least one new NOGT next year.



This time we will not evaluate the questionnaires. During the March meeting in Amsterdam 2012 we will give you again the questionnaire for 2012 to see how things are developing in your country. For those representatives that won't be at the meeting we will send the questionnaire by e-mail. I invite all of you to give your answers to the questions so we will be informed about NOGT situation in your country.

I think it will be appropriate to point out what we have done about the proposals that we received through the questionnaires last time. The first pro-

posal was about UKACP and EAGT cooperation on the conference level in both countries. I spoke with the UKACP representative in Zurich and we discussed how this could be done. As I already said in my previous report, some kind of PR event about EAGT activities at national conferences in each country could be a good idea for recognition of gestalt therapy and ideas in the community. The second proposal was about qualitative standards in psychotherapy that need to be established. In EAGT we have PC&QS working group and we are working on these standards. EAGT also promotes participation of different gestalt approaches and recently our Research committee started a research in gestalt therapy that will include all the countries. Furthermore, EAGT has a very good connection with EAP and working on the competences of psychotherapists.

At the end, if you have any suggestions and proposals please don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail.

I wish you a Happy New Year, lots of love, peace, happiness and sharing special moments with your loved ones!

Jelena Zeleskov Djoric
NOGT officer

Report from the Research Committee

The Research Committee (RC) meets twice a year, just a day before the General Board meetings. It has three tasks:

1) starting up own research projects

We have started up the following research projects:

- Questionnaire for participants of the PBI project. To get data for evaluation of this project;
- Survey on research activities of EAGT members and institutes;
- Design for a Clinical Research

Project in cooperation with an institute: «*Effectiveness of Gestalt therapy approach in panic attacks*». Some of the members will be active in this Research project.

We are ready to give our scientific support for research activities for any EAGT institute or NOGT. If you have any project or idea for a project and need some support to come to a realisation, please contact us.

2) supporting book publications

We plan to support financially every

year 1 book publication, applying the following criteria:

- a) Criteria for translations of books into English:
 - the book is already published in a national language;
 - it covers an interesting topic for the Gestalt community;
 - this topic is not already covered in current English literature;
 - the project is supported by the NOGT.
- b) Criteria for publications of new

books:

- the editorial project covers an interesting topic for Gestalt community;
- this topic is not already covered in current English literature;
- the editorial project involves a group of writers from different European countries.

Every EAGT member (individual, training institute, professional organisation or NOGT) can propose an editorial project.

A letter explaining the project, the good reasons for promoting it and the required support must be addressed to the Research Committee. The Committee evaluates the proposal and gives a recommendation to the Executive Committee in order to support the project or not. It's up to the Executive Committee to evaluate the financial involvement of EAGT and to decide in what way and measure it is possible to support it.

In 2010 we have supported the trans-

lation of *Bernd Bocian's* book on Fritz Perls in Berlin. It was ready just for the conference in Berlin. For 2011 we decided to support a book that will appear in English, written by several authors: "Gestalt Therapy in Clinical Practice. From Psychopathology to the Aesthetics of Contact", edited by *Gianni Francesetti, Michela Gecele* and *Jan Roubal*. They will need the money in 2012.

3) documentation about available Gestalt literature in European countries

The updating of a bibliography of available Gestalt literature in European countries is going on. We designed a data base, that will give a lot of comfort for users to find literature they are interested in. We would like to ask again all NOGT's and institutes to let us know about new publications in your country and language, so that it can be registered. Once the data base will be online, you will find on our website a form that you can fill in and send it back.

Members of the Research Committee are at the time:

Gianni Francesetti, Jan Roubal, Peter Schulthess (chair), Emilija Stoimenova, Ivana Vidakovic and Jelena Zeleskov Djoric.

Knowing, that others are also interested to participate on this committee, we decided to have something like a two circle committee. The existing committee will stay as it is, to keep complexity reduced in organizing meetings and taking decisions. But it would be great to have associate members in a second circle around this committee that bring in ideas and that are available to be consulted on specific topics or involved in specific projects. So if you feel like wanting to support the activities of the RC, please send us an e-mail and let us know about your interest and on what topics you might contribute to us.

Peter Schulthess

How two Lonely Gestaltists met each other among Hundreds of Psychotherapy Researchers

It seems Gestalt therapy has missed something. The 42nd International Meeting of the *Society for Psychotherapy Research* (SPR) took place in Bern at the end of June 2011 with over 680 presentations and the participation of 38 countries worldwide. The presentations were distributed across 120 panels, 27 brief paper sessions, 18 structured discussions, 8 workshops and 2 poster sessions with 69 posters each.

Among all this only two presentations were mentioning Gestalt approach. One was a poster about the influence of training group based on Gestalt therapy upon Japanese graduate students (*Hiroki Hosogoshi – Kyoto Bunkyo University, Uji, Japan*) and the other was about presence in group processes (*David Tune – University of York St John, UK, Liz Mellor*). That was all!

This absence of presentation of Gestalt therapy research was even more

alarming when considering what different psychotherapy approaches were presented there. The majority of the presented research projects were based on one of the three psychotherapy approaches: psychodynamic, cognitive behaviour and emotional focused. *Emotion Focused Therapy* (EFT) is the integration of Gestalt approach (in its classical form) and Person Centred Approach, enriched with clinical practice based on contemporary brain and emotions research. The founder of EFT, *Leslie Greenberg*, describes it as a kind of dialogical form of Gestalt and indeed it has a lot in common with the current form of Gestalt therapy. There were many presentations of EFT research, EFT research teams, EFT new research projects, EFT research books – everywhere. The hot topic there was „*Presence of the therapist*“. The ideas were very close to the one of the characteristics of the existential dialogue as de-

scribed in current Gestalt therapy theory (but Gestalt approach was regretfully almost not mentioned there).

It was obvious that concepts of Gestalt therapy would be very much fitting the current trends in psychotherapy research. But there would have to be someone to do the research and present it on international psychotherapy research meetings! This we sighed when we, two lonely Gestalt therapists met each other there (*Peter Schulthess* and *Jan Roubal*). We know there is a research of Gestalt therapy (although it could be much richer). But we also need to let the other researches know about it. And we need to see what researcher from other approaches do to get inspiration and be in contact with the psychotherapy research movement.

The EAGT Research Committee is aware of these challenges. Therefore it wants to support the communication

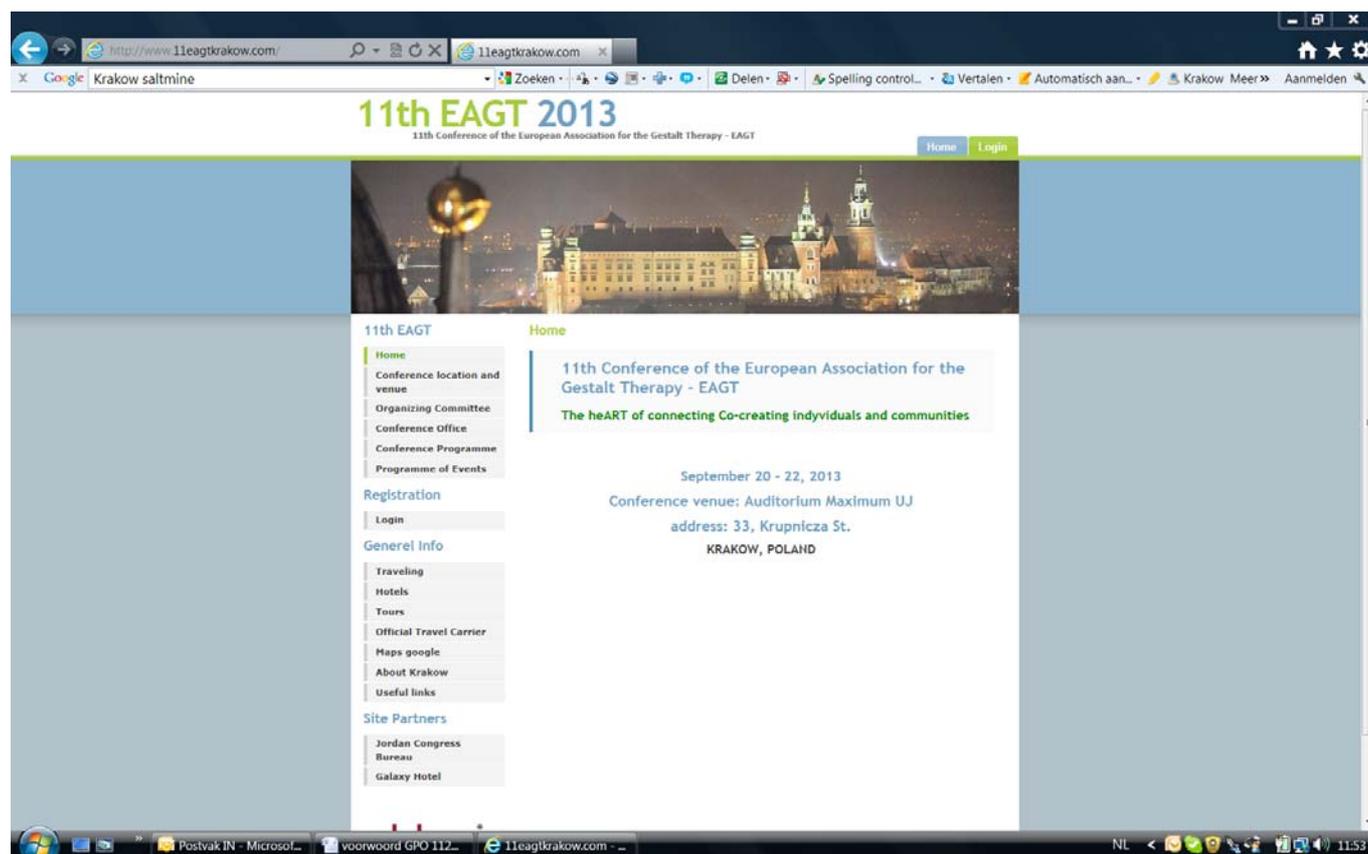
between Gestalt researchers, encourage new researchers and get more in touch with the international psychotherapy research movement. Therefore the Research Committee starts a survey of actual gestalt research projects done by our members (see report of the Research

Committee). We would like to invite all members that are interested in research to become members of SPR, visit the annual congresses and contribute there. We need to be seen in the outside world otherwise we should not complain that we get out of the „radar“ of scientific

community of psychotherapy researchers.

Peter Schulthess & Jan Roubal
Supported by: *Gianni Francesetti*
& *Jelena Zeleskov Djoric*

11th EAGT conference (2013)



As you might know, in 2013 the 11th EAGT conference will be held. This time it will be held in Krakow, Poland, this you might also recall as many participants of the 10th conference, which was held in Berlin, voted for Krakow!

The Polish organisers decided to call in the help of a professional organisation specialized in organising congresses and conferences. The name of the professional organisation is Jordan and they do more than only organising congresses and conferences. They offer a full programme as they offer also flights, transportation, tourist information etc.

Bas Lokerse, (vice president, treasurer and chair GPO) and I support the Polish organisers from EAGT's side and on November 24th we have scheduled a Skype meeting with the Polish organisers. The title of the conference is:

***The heART of connecting;
Co-creating individuals and communities.***

A website is already "in the air" and although it is not finished yet, the utmost will be done to have it ready soon. Having announced this let me now give you some information of which I think it is interesting for you:

Website: www.11eagtkrakow.com

Dates: 20 – 22, 2013 (reserve these dates now in your agenda).

Venue: Auditorium Maximum UJ (of the Jagiellonian University – website: www.kampus.uj.edu.pl/auditorium.htm you can have a virtual tour here).

Besides the familiar program for gestalt therapists we will offer at the conference a parallel program for GPO's (Gestalt Practitioner in Organizations). We believe it will become an interesting and distinctive conference and we hope that all records, in terms of participant numbers, are going to be broken!

Marga Berends
Office manager

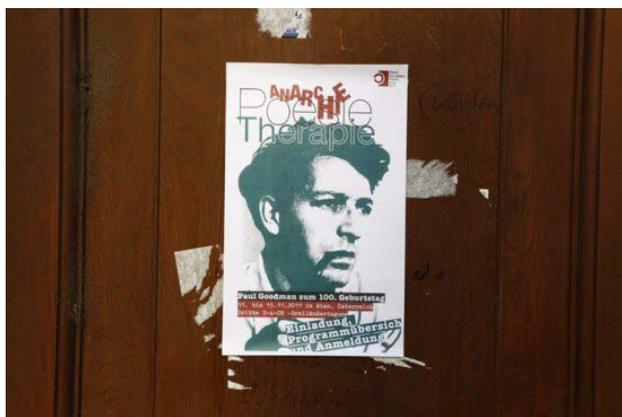
Reports from European Countries

AUSTRIA

Beatrix Wimmer, OEVG

Dear Colleagues,
This time I want to focus on a report about the 3rd *D-A-CH* –*Tagung* dedicated to Paul Goodman's birthday centennial *Paul Goodman zum 100. Geburtstag* that took place from 11.-13.11.2011 here in Vienna.

Colleagues from Germany, Switzer-



land and Austria have been very busy planning the event and we can proudly say, that we really succeeded in our efforts!

It was a great pleasure to welcome about 200 colleagues not only from the three German speaking countries, but also from Italy/Alto Adige, Great Britain, Mexico, Israel and of course as special guests *Susan Goodman* and *Jonathan Lee* from USA!

It was a pleasure to have Susan Goodman as witness of this time, who was drawing a very vivid picture of herself as a child and adolescent growing up with *Paul Goodman*.

Jonathan Lee presented his film *Paul Goodman changed my Life* as a European Film Premiere at our conference.

Many other exceptionally committed colleagues turned this meeting into a very special event, at which all of us obviously succeeded in bringing the many different aspects that characterised Paul Goodman to life.

I want to mention *Stefan Blankertz*

in particular, who is known as one of the eminent experts on Paul Goodman in the German speaking world; he contributed a lot to the success of our project. For all those interested we also managed to publish a new reader with Goodman's writings; Stefan Blankertz has selected, translated and edited the texts..

Once again I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues Dieter Bongers and Marc Oestreicher from Switzerland as well as my colleague here in Vienna, *Do Warta*.

On our website, www.paulgoodmanta-gung.org, you can have

a look at the photos to get an impression of the conference. For the German speaking community, there will be some of the lectures and

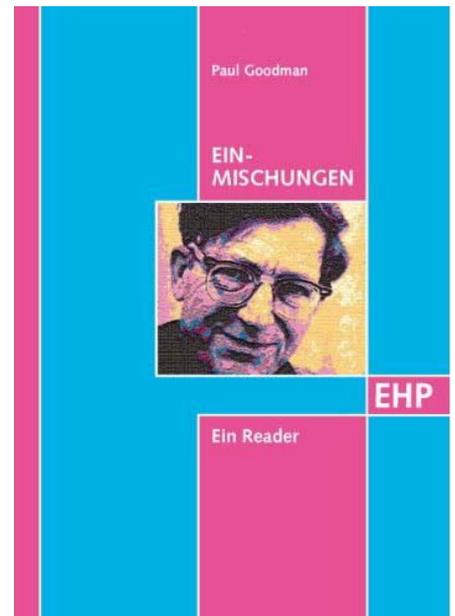
workshops published in the next volume of "Gestalttherapie" (Vol. 1/2012, e.g. Susan Goodman's interview as transcribed and translated into German!

With these impressions I wish everybody a very enjoyable festive time and a successful New Year 2012!

Netherlands – Flemish Belgium

Jack van Liesdonk
President NVAGT

Developments in our countries are that we are reconsidering our organisational form. For now we have two divisions (*Netherlands and Flemish Belgium*) with each a division board to take care of the specific tasks for each country. For our development of the organisation we and our members feel a need to open up more to the society. And open up to younger people to interest them for the gestalt approach as



Paul Goodman. Einmischung. Ein Reader. Bergisch-Gladbach. EHP 2011.

an important skill.

That means that we also have to make a change in our organisational culture. For the first 11 years we exist now we have focussed on quality standards, certification, and accreditation. Trying to prove as an organisation that gestalt-therapists are well trained and can provide quality. In that process seems that we have also lost something. Something has to do with energy, with manifestation in the field. As a result of that loss, is it difficult to find people that are energetic and manifest themselves in our association. So the question is how can we renew ourselves, without losing quality standards and gain being attractive?

We are also in the process of re-registration as a NOGT. To do so, our ethic committee has renewed their ethics and complaint procedures. It is also a moment to take a closer look at the other gestalt association that are in the Netherlands. We are trying to make more contact with the professional organisation NBGT, which is considering developing from associate member of EAGT to Ordinary member. In that process they should learn to work with EAGT stand-

ards. It is a professional organisation based on two trainings institutes and has about 80 members. Together with the 360 members of NVAGT and the 140 cooperative members of NVAGT are we all interested in developing gestalt.

The NVAGT has a difficult relation with NAP (*Netherlands Association of Psychotherapy*), the national counterpart of EAP. The NAP has developed their own ECP standards (4400 hours of training), next to the EAP standard for ECP (3200 hours of training). That leads to conflicts with those trainings institutes that are given the authority to direct awarding an ECP by EAP, the so called EAPTI's. Their students receive an ECP after completing their EAP certified training from ECP headquarters, Vienna. After that, the Dutch NAP doesn't want to accept that ECP, because the NAP has formulated their own standards.

At the same time, the register of NAP is questioned about their quality. Rumours are that the 'old' ECP-holders don't meet the standards of today. So the higher standards of today are used to prevent new ECP-holders to enter 'their' market with some refunds from the health insurances.

Slowly are there more gestalttherapists who take position in the NAP organisation and committees, which is a good development.

Good news: we are preparing our three year congress in 2012. The theme of the congress is the field orientation of gestalt. There is an ambition to make gestalt more open to the field and to other modalities of psychotherapy. The title is *'fresh from the field'*. The tradition is that 65% of our members join our congresses, so we have high expectations.

ITALY

Matteo Maria Bonani

SIPG

Dear all,
S.I.P.G., the Italian N.O.G.T., is very busy in preparing its 3rd Conference that will be held in Palermo next December, 9th–11th:

www.gestalt.it/congressosipg/brochure.pdf.

The majority of the Italian Gestalt institutes are supporting this event: *Centro Studi di Terapia della Gestalt* (Dir. R. Zerbetto), *Istituto di Gestalt HCC Italy* (Dir. M. Spagnuolo Lobb), *Istituto di Gestalt Therapy HCC Kairos* (Dir. G. Salonia e V. Conte), *Istituto di Psicoterapia della Gestalt e Analisi Transazionale* (Dir. A. Ferrara), *Scuola Gestalt Torino* (Dir. M. Pizzimenti), *Società Italiana Gestalt* (Dir. M. Menditto). We have in this moment almost 500 participants, an important result for the Italian Gestalt community. This meeting will be a good occasion to confront different perspectives and experiences in Gestalt Therapy. The title is: *'Beauty and Pain. From Psychopathology to the Aesthetics of Contact'*, and will touch some core aspects of our theory and practice and their developments.

The conference will give also the opportunity to young therapists to bring their contributes and stimulate the creativity with lectures and posters; there will be a concourse for their best paper. We have also planned a panel on research because we think that it is a priority to promote the it in the field of psychotherapy.

S.I.P.G. has participated to the organisation of the SIPSIC Convention, a new Italian association that collects all

national forces involved in psychotherapy, included psychiatrists. The Conference was the biggest has never been realised in Italy, with 3800 participants. A deep dialogue with all people working in psychotherapy, with some important guests: *Otto Kemberg, Jhon Norcross, Leslie Greenberg, Nora Bateson*. Some topics were: neuroscience, research, the setting evolution, psychopathology, quality in psychotherapy, variable of client and variable of therapist, integration between psychotherapy and drugs: www.sipsic.it/jo/index.php/convegni-a-congressi/la-psicoterapia-in-evoluzione.html. Our president is one of the consultants of this new organisation, and this provides a good connection between the two associations.

Next year it will be the conference of the FIAP, the Italian NAO, and S.I.P.G. is participating to the organisation process. Another good and important opportunity to dialogue with colleagues from other models.

At the end, I tell you the inner movement: *Gianni Francesetti*, our S.I.P.G. President, has just been elected as FIAP President, another good result for the Gestalt community in Italy; so in the next Annual General Meeting, in Palermo next December, it will be the election of the new S.I.P.G. President.

Before closing my report, I want to say good bye remembering *Serge Ginger*.

Wishing you all the best!

Report Human Rights and Social Responsibility Committee

The dust is slowly descended, experiences begin to integrate, new initiatives and ideas looming at the horizon. In many ways the conference 'Social, political and cultural relationships as therapy's ground', organised by the HR&SR Committee and patronaged by the European Inter University-Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) from 20-23 October, was an exciting event.

A mixed group of speakers outside and inside the Gestalt community gave a colourful array of lectures to an equally mixed group of 67 participants, Gestalt therapist, Gestalt Practitioners in Organisations, a big group of Gestalt students from the HCC Gestalt Training Institute in Italy.

In the process groups after each lecture, there was plenty to chew on the presented topics. Not all subjects could be immediately translated into our daily Gestalt practice. But the great diversity of topics that were highlighted brought depth to the background of our work. And that was exactly the intention of this conference, to focus on the social, political and cultural relationships as therapy's ground. Presentations of our committee members gave an insight into working on human rights issues outside the therapy room, in a wider social, political and cultural context.



There are of course also critical notions. The subtitle 'A Gestalt Therapy session' caused some confusion, the ongoing translation took time and energy, the uncertainty about the separated process groups from students and the other participants. It made an appeal to the flexibility of the participants in bridging differences in language and expectations. The decision to mix the process groups led to a fruitful mutual exchange between students and more experienced Gestalt therapists.

The Italian organisation surprised us with live classic music during the welcome cocktail and live world music at the social dinner. At the end everyone filled the dance floor with a traditional polonaise.

Again, I thank all speakers and organizers for their free contribution to this three days event. And all participants for their substantive contribution in discussions. Our committee will recommend the Training Standards Committee to include *Human Rights and Social Responsibility* as a subject in the training standards under with social, political, cultural and ecological dimensions of our field theory.

Our committee intends to combine the presentations, discussions raised in process groups and the outcome of the 'HR&SR survey on clinical, social and political implications of Gestalt therapists' work' in a book. We have already sent the call to participate in the survey to all members. We would appreciate it if you bother to return our questionnaire.

Some time ago our committee has taken the initiative to open a FORUM page, linked to the EAGT website. We aim to create a platform where our members can meet to express thoughts, feelings and knowledge sharing about the revolutions in the Arab world. The revolution in Libya and the recent revival of the revolution in Egypt raises questions on what we can contribute to the restoration of human rights. Share your opinion with your colleagues on FORUM.

Guus Klaren
Chair HR&SR

EAGT Membership

New Members 2011

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----|---|-----------------|-----|
| <i>Marcin Szczygiel</i> | Poland | OM | <i>Jay Levin</i> | U.S.A. | OM |
| <i>Kostas Konstantinos</i> | Greece | OM | <i>Dorota Węgrzyn</i> | Poland | OM |
| <i>Marisa Giordimaina</i> | Malta | OM | <i>Gianni Francesetti</i> | Italy | OM |
| <i>Astrid Alemany Dusendschön</i> | France | OM | <i>Ewa Canert-Łaka</i> | Poland | OM |
| <i>Marian Bartoš</i> | Czech Republic | OM | <i>Renata Procak</i> | Poland | OM |
| <i>Pavel Jurniček</i> | Czech Republic | OM | <i>Jan Roubal</i> | Czech Republic | OM |
| <i>Jay Levin</i> | U.S.A. | OM | <i>Carmen Vazquez Bandin</i> | Spain | OM |
| <i>Elpida Kalaitzi</i> | Greece | OM | <i>Hanna Palich</i> | Poland | OM |
| <i>San Eyckmans</i> | Belgium | OM | <i>Izabela Osinska</i> | Poland | OM |
| <i>Tanja Velkov</i> | Slovenia | AM | | | |
| <i>Selma Gaši</i> | B&H | OM | New GPO members | | |
| <i>Mikela Smith La Rosa</i> | Malta | OM | <i>Sue Congram</i> | United Kingdom | GPO |
| <i>Hanna Szczepanska</i> | Poland | OM | <i>Nicky Burton</i> | United Kingdom | GPO |
| <i>Dana Loncarica</i> | B&H | OM | <i>Sally Denham-Vaughan</i> | United Kingdom | GPO |
| <i>Irena Orož</i> | Slovenia | OM | <i>Marie-Anne Chidiac</i> | United Kingdom | GPO |
| <i>Hanna Palich</i> | Poland | OM | | | |
| <i>Alma Kovačić</i> | B&H | OM | Altered membership status (from AM to OM) NOGT's | | |
| <i>Brigita Kaleckaite</i> | Slovenia | OM | <i>MNAGT</i> | Macedonia FYROM | OM |
| <i>Ivana Kreft</i> | Lithuania | OM | <i>HAGT</i> | Greece | OM |
| | | | <i>Gestaltterapeutforeningen</i> | Denmark | OM |

Altered membership status (from AM to OM)

Dorota Węgrzyn Poland

New accredited Supervisors

Andzrej Wronski Poland OM
Marcin Szczygiel Poland OM

Abbreviations explained:

OM = Ordinary Membership
 (formerly called full membership)

AM = Associate Membership

GPO = Gestalt Practitioner in Organisations

Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

Oren Arnold

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>