Editorial

As I began writing the editorial for this issue of EAGT Newsletter, some time back in August, I started out with the words: “From the northern corner of Europe, I breathe stillness. After a hot summer that I’ve spent mostly with my family and friends, the world outside of Sweden seems far away.”

Life seemed so simple those last days of summer. After the murder of the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anna Lindh, who died on September 11th (!), my perspective has changed dramatically. Although the evident depth of trauma for Anna Lindh’s family, her husband and two young sons, the strongest impact the consequences from this meaningless act of violence has had on me was the heartfelt reactions from so many people – both in Sweden and abroad.

The closeness and loss expressed from so many European leaders, has drawn my attention to how much I share with the rest of the world. The experience of being familiar with other and foreign people – and thereby loyal and empathic with their conditions – is an inner expansion of our humanness.

With these words I welcome you to the 5th issue of EAGT Newsletter, where you may get a feel for the amount of important work done by the Board members of EAGT which, I believe, is a work made in the spirit of expanding our humanness.

Lars Berg
Editor

The President’s Column

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you continue to be inspired by gestalt, both as a therapy and a way of life.

Since I last wrote to you, the Executive Board, the Extended Board and the various committee’s of the EAGT have been busy with the task of promoting the growth the organisation and preparing for the next Meeting of Members in Prague in November.

Our secretary Joppie Baaker has experienced several challenges, including the processing of new applications for the European Certificate of Psychotherapy, in the context of considerable diversity in training cultures, criteria’s of assessment and curriculum content. Joppie has responded to this challenge with great perseverance and we are grateful for her patience and good humour.

Similarly Katia Hatzilakou has made exhaustive attempts to untangle bureaucracy in order to establish a bank account in Greece.

Daan van Baalen continues to be an ambassador for Gestalt in his frequent trips around the globe and Estef Neumanova and her support team are dedicated to promoting Gestalt through their planning of the next European conference in September 2004.

Nancy Amendt-Lyon has been reviewing and updating the membership criteria for the Extended Board, thus ensuring that EAGT is receptive to the needs and dreams of gestalt colleagues right across Europe.

Dick Lompa and the Ethics Committee will be presenting members with a proposed new Complaints Procedure at the meeting in Prague where Daan van Praag and the Training Standards Committee will also be presenting the new training standards. These are both areas of vital importance to the continued development of Gestalt therapy in Europe.

At the meeting of Members in Prague you will also be invited to consider new criteria for the voting rights of ordinary members of EAGT with a view to further strengthening representative democracy within the association.

Also in Prague three new task groups will be proposed:

- Gestalt in Organisations;
- Gestalt in Education;
- Human Rights & Social responsibility.

The first two task groups reflect the growing interest of members in the application of gestalt values in the areas of education and organisational consultancy. The latter of the three responds to the growing perception among gestalt therapists that psychotherapy in general has, traditionally, been too narrowly focussed on the consulting room to the neglect of the social, political and economic conditions that impact our clients and our planet daily.

I hope the above gives you a clear sense that the Board and Extended Board of EAGT are committed to ba-
lancing the need to both consolidate the infrastructure of the association while at the same time seeking new ways to promote and develop the association.

In my professional life and in my personal life I have felt supported and encouraged by the warmth and generosity of my colleagues who give, voluntarily and good naturally, to the EAGT the precious gifts of their time, energy and humanity.

This year my country has been at war and this has caused considerable anguish to me and all those in the Gestalt community in the United Kingdom. Against the backdrop of war I fell in love and got married. The juxtaposition of love and war felt bizarre to Jayne and I. How anyone could take the life of another human being became a question ever more poignant and desperate and confusing.

Inevitably I began to reflect on what contribution Gestalt could make to peace.

For me the soul is a ‘place of meeting’ and not an entity located within the body or psyche, either as an inherent possession or as a ‘gift’ from an external creator. I have long been inspired by the writings of Martin Buber who was arguably the greatest philosopher of the twentieth century? When I meet another human being and am prepared to be open and vulnerable, and this in turn is reciprocated, then there is a possibility of a mutuality of contact, “I - Thou”. In that moment of meeting I experience ‘soul’ which is the meeting, and when the meeting is over the experience is a cherished memory. The experience cannot be held on to, or clung to, or reproduced with some technique. To try to do so simply objectifies the experience and takes you further away from self and other. The experience of ‘soul’ requires a total commitment to being fully human in the moment and therefore cannot be sustained for any length of time, at this stage of our evolution. The experience of ‘soul’ requires a potentially costly surrender of self and other but from within the experience of soul (meeting) it is impossible to kill the other, without killing oneself!

In the gestalt understanding of contact I find a deep connection between the pursuit of humanity and spirituality. To work to become more fully human is a spiritual endeavour (rather than a religious practice) and is a lifelong journey, perhaps involving many lives? Contact is the goal of gestalt therapy. Contact is life!

With warm regards and best wishes,

Ken Evans FRSA

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**News for the 8th European Conference of Gestalt Therapy**

Dear colleagues,

I address you again to provide you with new information about the course and arrangements for the 8th European Conference of Gestalt Therapy 2004, *Tradition and Renewal*, which will be held from September 9 to September 12 in Prague in the Czech Republic.

The entire programme of our meeting will take place in the Conference Centre Hotel Pyramida, which is situated in the centre of Prague, within walking distance from Hradany and Prague Castle.

One year before its commencement I invite you cordially to Prague to take part in the EAGT Conference. Let us meet in the atmosphere of discourse to be able to appreciate our individual differences and at the same time our common roots and goals.

The main goal of the Organising Committee is to prepare such programme that will contribute to the high professional level of our meeting and in the same time will enable us to meet together as a community.

You can read all information relevant to the EAGT Conference, including the form for on-line registration, at the official website www.gestalt-terapie.cz, where the on-line version of the Second Announcement has been posted. You will find there all the important deadlines for your registration, information about the programme of the conference and about your stay in Prague.

I would like to remind you here that early registration stands for reduced registration fees. You can also benefit from group discounts, which are also described at the website.
Those who want to get all detailed information sent by post, please, send your request together with your postal address to one of the addresses/numbers below and we will provide you with the printed version of the Second Announcement for the Conference.

In case you want to have your workshop or a mini-lecture, please, do not forget that the deadline for sending the abstract is January 31, 2004.

One year before the conference, I and my colleagues in the organizing committee are ready to answer all your questions about the Conference or concerning your coming to Prague. Do not hesitate to contact us at any of the numbers or addresses shown below.

We sincerely look forward to our meeting together in Prague in September 2004.

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A Note from The Treasurer

Dear EAGT members,
First of all I would like to present myself. My name is Katia Hatzilakou and as of January 2003 I am officially the new treasurer of EAGT. I am aware that many of you might be wondering about the delay of payment and not having received any letter from me. I wanted to inform you about the difficult situation the EAGT is facing these previous months here in Greece. Due to a very strict bureaucratic system, since Greece is a new member of the European Committee, we have been struggling with details that have delayed the procedure.

Hopefully by the time you have received this letter, we will have overcome the problems and that I will be able to inform you about the new account and the method of payment.

I hope to see you all in Prague.

All the best, Katia Hatzilakou

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
There are two documents that will be voted on at the Meeting of Members in November 2003 in Prague:
1. The Accreditation of Gestalt Institutes, by Daan van Praag and Peter Schulthsess;
You may download both as Word files at the EAGT Website, http://www.eagt.org

The Third “European Writer’s Conference” in Bordeaux, April 24-27, 2003

This meeting took place as a result of the EAGT’s initiative, which is based upon Ed Nevis’ model in the United States. For many years, it has given way to a dynamic form of writing in the field of Gestalt therapy: After Syracuse and Alicante, Bordeaux is the last meeting ground for the conference, held within a four day period. Jean Marie Robine was there to greet us at the IFGT quarters.

The purpose is to bring together a certain number of authors with article blueprints, or who are already well into the writing of an article (or a book). The editors of major journals, whose countries are represented, participate in the conference as authors but also have stakes in the potential of future publications. Each participant presents his or her project to the other members of the group with the support of a moderator. Having already been familiarized with each text via e-mail, the authors are able to enlarge their scope and rethink how they will approach their own subject-matter, depending on what ideas are being forwarded.
Therefore, we are able to advise one another on, per se, using more examples, modifying the approach, etc. This can result in the enlargement and increasing depth of the text, thereby providing more specific answers to questions the author ponders. It can also let the latter guide his/her work in a way that will spur the reader's interest, as well as enrich the theory and practice of Gestalt-therapy. Hence, the work becomes a cross-fertilization process: Participation between practitioners and theorists is active along themes that involve both camps. In addition, small sized groups (comprised of nearly twenty people, sometimes devised into sub-groups) provide for an atmosphere of trust. Thus, a shared vision can surface in parallel to an explanation of a different approach and a different cultural context.

Of the proposed themes, some served as a way to widen each one's possibilities and theorize on gestalt-therapy, i.e., situation, intention, Chinese thought, L. Wittgenstein contributions. Others sought to question our basic concepts, such as awareness, frontiers, etc; Clinical applications, i.e., shame, guilt, addictions, work with abuse victims, borderlines, or specific symptoms such as tinnitus; Openings for larger considerations, i.e., optimism, Gestalt-therapy from the perspective of theatrical work, organizational work, and socio-ecologico-political visions of the field.

With 18 participants (both old and new) from 11 different countries, these four days held together were, in my opinion, made extremely stimulating. Indeed, the vitality of exchanges during and surrounding the work sessions gave us a feeling that we belong to a growing community. Additionally, the desire to go forward in the editing of our articles, mixed-in with a time of celebration in the IFGT quarters, gave everyone the will to keep in touch and sustain a web of support for the other authors. Given, the work was done in a rigorous rhythm, but it was done with great pleasure!

The conference decided to have the next year writers conference, on invitation of Katia Hatzilakou, in Thesaloniki. (22 / 25 April 2004)

*Sylvie Schoeb de Neuflern*
May 2003

[Photos by Jean Marie Robine]
Letter to the Extended Board

Dear EAGT Members,

It seems that much of my work as Chair of the Extended Board of the EAGT consists in updating our list of delegates! Attached is the latest list of delegates and guests to the Extended Board (see back page of the Newsletter Ed. note). Please update your own files – e-mail addresses, post addresses and phone numbers have changed for some of us recently. Ilse le Roy (Netherlands) withdrew from the Board of the NVAGT in May, 2003, and thereby also from the Extended Board of the EAGT. She reassured us that the NVAGT will soon send us the name of their new representative to the Extended Board. I had looked forward to cooperating with Ilse in the EAGT and thank her for the work she has done during her year as the delegate from the Netherlands. Britt Bragée from Sweden has been replaced by Chris Berardi, Elisabeth Salem from Austria by Etta Hermann-Uhlig. Many thanks to Britt and Elisabeth for their years of devoted work. News from France: The Société Française de Gestalt will be represented by Manon Sarda van Woensel, sharing the representation of France with Jean-Pierre Garrivet from the C.E.G.T.

Our next Extended Board meeting will be at the annual meeting of the EAGT in Prague on Saturday, November 8th, 2003, starting at 1:00 p.m. and I hope to be able to welcome all the delegates to the Extended Board at this event. An agenda and venue for this meeting will be sent to the delegates per e-mail. Besides discussing recent developments in Gestalt therapy in each represented country, one of the main issues that will be on the agenda is the increasingly important issue of national organizations in the respective European countries and how they can be established.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, allow me to remind you of our archives of Gestalt therapy publications within Europe, which are available on our website: www.eagt.org

The national delegates are responsible for compiling lists of Gestalt therapy publications in their own country and updating them annually for the website. The form for the list of publications must be: author, title (in the original language), place of publication, date of publication, title translated into English, 4 keywords in English, if possible, also the ISBN number. All lists must be in word.doc files and should be sent to me at: 
amendtdlyon@aon.at

Having already participated in two of the EAGT Writers’ Conferences, I wholeheartedly encourage you to engage in this project because there is a great need to know about what is being discussed and published in other countries. Alas, language difficulties often prevent us from informing ourselves. If we can at least share the title and keywords in English, our working language, then we can promote the common use of our full resources! All the best from Nancy Amendt-Lyon, Chair of the Extended Board. Vienna, June 23, 2003

Meeting of Members

Time: 13.00-16.00,
November 7-9 2003, at Institut pro Gestalt Terapii, Nad stolou 18, Prague 7
Tel: 2 333 707 33, mobile 603 516325

AGENDA

Names of those present
Apologies for absence
Minutes of last meeting
Matters arising

Ken Evans - Report of President
Joppie Bakker - Report of Secretary
Kattia Hatzilakou - Report of Treasurer
Nancy Amendt-Lyon - Report of Chair of Extended Board
Daan van Baalen - Report of External Relations

New proposals:
Daan van Praag – Training Standards
Dick Lompa – Complaints Procedure
Ken Evans –Revision of statutes:

Voting Rights
Proxy Voting

Creation of three new committees:
• Gestalt in Organisations
• Gestalt in Education
• Human Rights
& Social Responsibility
Ester Neumanova

- EAGT Prague Conference update
A.O.B.

Date of next Meeting

Provisional Agenda for Meeting of the Extended Board of the EAGT
November 8th, 2003, Prague, Czech Republic

1. Welcome delegates; attendance; ascertain who has voting rights for this meeting.
2. Vote on approval of Minutes of Extended Board Meeting on July 13th, 2002, Vienna; vote on correction to Topic 9 in Minutes regarding UK/GAUK.
3. Reports from national delegates; two national organizations and shared voting responsibilities in France and (new situation) Belgium, new delegates from Sweden, Austria, Netherlands, France, Belgium. Situation in Ireland, Spain? Clarification of voting rights, duties, and privileges of delegates and guests of the Extended Board.
4. National organizations: aims and objectives of the EAGT. How to establish them, promote them.
5. Archives of the EAGT. Responsibilities of the national delegates.
6. Miscellaneous.

-5-
Propositions for changes and revisions of statutes

Proposition for changing statutes for NOGT and TI
See the Statutes as they are now. We propose the following change in article 2.2:

2.2 b The union of training institutions in Europe that offer a qualified education in Gestalt Psychotherapy and Counseling.
c The union of persons active in Europe in the field of Gestalt psychotherapy and its applications

(instead of old b) Old c becomes d and so on.

Section 4
1b Training institutions accredited by the EAGT, meeting the EAGT training standards.

(instead of old b)

Revisions to the Statutes
The following two revisions are proposed to the EAGT statutes:

Section 5. Rights and Duties of Members
To delete the existing clause 2 and replace with:

Clause 2: Ordinary Members attending the Meeting of Members have the right to vote on the basis of proportional representation thus:

Individual members = 1 vote
Organisations with less than 150 members = 2 votes
Organisations with more than 150 members = 4 votes
Organisations with more than 500 members = 6 votes

Proxy Voting
To add an additional clause 6 to Section 5 of the Statutes thus:

Clause 6: Fully paid up Ordinary Members who are unable to attend the Meeting of Members may exercise their right to vote by notifying the EAGT Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the Meeting of Members.

New Members
As of June 2003

Organisations:
Association de Psychologie, Belgium
Dialogue, CZ-GPTI, Czech Republic
Dialóg S-GPTI, Slovakia
Association Espanola de Terapie Gestalt (AETG), Spain
Nordisk Gestalt Institute, Norway

Personal members:
Chris van Asselt, The Netherlands
Miriam van Agtmaal, Belgium
Sietske Bierens, The Netherlands
Marijke Berendsen, The Netherlands
Trix Beumers, The Netherlands
Jutta Block-Stubig, The Netherlands
Fran Box, The Netherlands
Mari van den Burg, The Netherlands
Jaromir Chrastanský, Czech Republic
Anneke Duinker-Bouma, The Netherlands

Task Groups of European Association for Gestalt Therapy

Proposed new committees:
Under Section 8, Clause 4, item C, the following three task groups are proposed:
1. Gestalt in Organisations, chaired by Daan van Baalen;
2. Gestalt in Education, chaired by Katia Hatzilakou;
3. Human Rights & Social Responsibility, chair to be nominated.

The rationale for the above three task groups is that each of these areas are the focus of considerable interest among a growing number of EAGT members and the creation of these task groups would recognise this and further support and encourage critical reflection and development of gestalt in these applications. It is suggested that each task group create its own terms of reference and development plan.
# Updated address List of Executive and Extended Boards of the EAGT

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**Extended Board, June 2003**

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** JP Garrivet and Manon Sarda van Woensel**
will arrange to share the position of the Belgian delegate.

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Join us for our 7th Annual AAGT Conference in beautiful sunny Florida!
The Seventh International Conference of AAGT will return to the Tradewinds Sirata Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Our theme will be: **Re-Creation: Transforming the Field Through The Processes of Gestalt Therapy.**

For additional information, contact Marcy Stern at imawareru@comcast.net.
Go to our web page & to our newsletter at AAGT.org to find more information.