

President's Column

The democratic experiment where Executive Committee and Extended Board work together as one Board as was suggested on the AGM, Egham, UK, September 2005 was continued. The experiment will be evaluated in 2006 in Athens, Greece.

This experimental Board did meet before the Annual General Meeting as functioning Board and experienced working together as creative, functional and time saving. Information from participating countries was better available and taken in account in the process of decision-making.

Ken Evans
President EAGT.

Minutes from Annual General Meeting Egham, UK.
Below the minutes from Annual General Meeting Egham, September 15th, 2005. The minutes were made by *Marga Berends*, together with a mood report made by *Bas Lokerse*.

LIST OF THOSE PRESENT

Members:

Harm Siemens, The Netherlands
Magdalena Zaleska, Poland
Lynda Osborne, United Kingdom
Guus Klaren, The Netherlands
Maria Farmaki, Greece
Etta Hermann-Uhlig, Austria
Faye Page, United Kingdom
Claire Salisbury, United Kingdom
Pedro de Casso, Spain
Christof Weber, Germany
Gudrun Wyss, Switzerland
Tomaz Flajs, Slovenia
Gianni Francesetti, Italy
Jean van Pevenage, France
Naomi Anderson, United Kingdom
Anna Maria Paroli, Luxembourg

Ewa Canert-Laka, Poland
Daniel Collet-Cassart, Belgium

Executive Board:

Ken Evans, President, U.K.
Katia Hatzilakou, Chair Ext. Board, Greece
Daan van Baalen, Officer Public Relations, Norway
Bas Lokerse, Treasurer, Netherlands
Ester Neumanová, Officer Eastern European Countries, Czech Republic
Dick Lompa, Chair Ethics Committee, Netherlands
Peter Schulthess, Chair TSC, Switzerland

Minutes continued on page 2...

General Board Meeting Krakow, September 29th, 2006

On the *Annual General Meeting* in Krakow, Poland, September 29th 2006, twenty-five members from fifteen different countries did meet.

During an energetic and fruitful meeting was an extensive agenda fulfilled.

Minutes will follow after being approved on the next *Annual General Meeting* in Athens.



Agenda:

- *Welcome.*
- *Minutes of last AGM Prague September 2004.*
- *Matters arising.*
- *Report of officers – President – Ken Evans.*
- *Report of officers – Chair of Extended Board – Katia Hatzilakou.*
- *Report of officers – External Relations – Daan van Baalen.*
- *Report of officers – Ethics – Dick Lompa.*
- *Report of officers – TSC – Peter Schultbess.*
- *EAGT committees (Education & Children; Organisations; Social Responsibility).*
- *Treasurer – Bas Lokerse – and finances for the year ahead.*
- *Elections.*
- *The future organisation of EAGT, by Ken Evans.*
- *Discussions in small groups.*
- *The way ahead.*
- *Date and place AGM 2006.*

1. Welcome

Ken Evans welcomes all those present and explained Joppie Bakker her mother recently died and therefore she wasn't present. We took a silent moment for Joppie.

2. Minutes of last AGM Prague September 2004

After a few minor changes the minutes of the last AGM are approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising

Tomaž Flajs would like to talk about the TSC. This subject will come later on.

Writers Conference (Belfast) May 2005 was cancelled. Next year it will be held in Prague 25-26-27-28 May 2006

Christine Stevens and Raymond de Mey stepped down from the TSC.

Faye Page states form probably should be from (page 6). She would like to discuss something about the fees, this item also comes later on in the treasurer report.

4. Report Ken: President

Last Board meeting was held in Amsterdam. Due the emailing we can work hard.

EAGT is very well established.

Concerning the EAP – 20% of ECP fees comes to EAGT. Also establishing on certification – you can have both EAGT and EAP certificates.

He has been to Buenos Aires which was very exciting, he also felt proud to be a Gestalt therapist. Dialogue will be started as well as exploring possibilities to exchange info.

Katia will tell more about the Greece Conference.

Project Israel by Nurith Levi, unfortunately she couldn't make it due to family circumstances.

EAGT Board works very hard. There is a mutual respect. You as a member also thanks for your work.

Future of organisation: how can it grow further? We speak about this in the afternoon.

5. Report Katia: Extended Board

There was a lot of work. She finds her tasks very inspiring. Extended Board (held the day before the AGM) was also very inspiring.

Newsletter report of different countries was great! Please do it again also for those who didn't write something last time.

New faces in Extended Board; Russia, Oleg Nemerinskiy (he couldn't make it), Poland, Ewa Canert-Laka.

6. Report Daan: External Relations

This contains 3 tasks:

- Newsletter
- Chair of Norwegian National Awarding Organisation
- Create standards for OD

What should it be called because name is "affected by fashion".

Now an interim procedure, guidelines (Faye thinks this is a good idea), written professional log and/or inter-

view.

NVAGT is interested is Daan's OD says Guus Klaren. He could also contact Frans Meulmeester for The Netherlands.

If you are interested you are welcome to join! Jean van Pevengage wants to join, so welcome!

As Daan called it a 4th task was thrown in his lap, namely Writers Conference;

There was no interest, therefore it was cancelled.

What were reasons for not interested? Perhaps the place Belfast? Or is it considered as an elite group who know and published already?

Meaning of Writers Conference explained:

To mobilise young people, to get them enthusiastic. It is a support group for those who bring in an article and do not know (enough) how to publish. There are several support persons available.

The Writers Conference is free of charge the only costs are for travelling and accommodation.

Harm Siemens what articles came out of it? One of Margherite and Nancy, of Peter and one of Katia. Katia found it very helpful.

The Writers Conference is not at all exclusively meant for writers, although the title does suggest that. The title is well known but we would like to make it more lively and therefore we are thinking of a catching subtitle.

Newsletter:

Christof Weber says that DVG uses an email version of her Newsletter, couldn't EAGT perhaps do as well?

Ken states we should stick to our statutes. Perhaps there might be a second Newsletter and maybe this one could be spread via email.

7. Report Dick: Ethics

There were no complaints yet, fortunately. All organisations should send these documents to the Committee. After that you will receive recommendations for acceptance or further details.

Out of the blue Marga received thanks and applause for her work and suddenly it got warmer in the room...

8. Report Peter: TSC

Peter explains his tasks and tells about the meeting with the TS Committee in Amsterdam earlier this year.

NOGT's recognized by EAGT:***New since last year:***

Poland
Slovenia

Belgium (SBG) and The Netherlands (NVAGT) formed a Bridge Committee. Peter gives his compliments and states he is really proud of this!

Russia

Earlier members:

Austria
Germany
Norway
Switzerland
Greece
Italy
Netherlands

In every country should be a NOGT.

National Associations in process:

Spain

Czech Republic
Ireland
United Kingdom
France
Macedonia

Accredited Institute:

GPTI Malta

TI in process:

2 are in process of being accredited and several others are preparing their accreditation. Peter pointed out that the deadline for accreditation is November 2007. The documents should be reached in otherwise you could lose your Full Membership.

New TSC members will be appointed by the board because of the fact 2 members stepped down. They have to meet certain criteria's.

Changes in Accreditation paper:

Peter first gives a brief introduction concerning the level and procedures, the paper itself remains the same. The real change concerns to get accreditation of EAGT as well as EAP in one procedure. After we have discussed all the words/sentences/adding/deleting everyone present at the meeting agreed to the TSC paper. We vote on block for all pages at once: 46 in favour.

9 Report Ester – Education & Children / Report Ken will chair Social Responsibility / Report Katia – Conference

Education & Children – If you are in-

terested do contact Ester Neumanova. *Social Responsibility* – Ken will be acting Chair.

Conference – Katia shows a first flyer of the conference in Athens. Athens is chosen because it is a fine and convenient city after the Olympics.

10 Treasurer Bas – Finances

The report of the treasurer is supported by a PowerPoint presentation. As the slide showed the membership fee which EAGT is paying to EAP and NAP, it was stated the fee for NAP is a waste of money. The estimate was accepted and approved through voting: 46 in favour!

The voting was also on behalf of Marga, our office manager, Bas asked for 4 additional hours on top of the 8 hours she is working for EAGT already. Ken supported Bas' proposal by mentioning Marga was a delight. This proposal was also accepted and approved through voting: again 46 in favour!

11 Election(s)

This is about Ken's re-election. Therefore Daan is taking over the presidency and proposes for Ken Evans as a president of EAGT, only of course, if he wants to be re-elected and fortunately he does. Voted is for another 3 years of presidency by Ken Evans; result = 45 in favour and 1 abstention.

Mood report by Bas Lokense

For the first time in EAGT history the AGM lasted a whole day. The afternoon was to exchange ideas on the following 2 items. Ken introduced both items:

Merging of Executive and Extended board to a General/Full board.

To what standards should one meet to become a honorary member of EAGT

Somewhere in the history of

EAGT (1998-1999) the board of that time decided to join the representatives of NOGT countries in an Extended Board with the meaning they inform the Executive Board about the developments of Gestalt therapy at national level. Therefore members of the Extended Board would have the European developments at first hand. Real quick after this decision was decided, for the benefit of this process,

the chairperson of the Extended Board was added to the Executive Board with the aim to create more unity. Unfortunately this did not succeed successful enough.

Animated discussions take place in small groups. After a brief explanation of what the exact meaning and how to look forward to the model, members soon became really excited for this

proposal. They see many benefits to the idea. The thought is – one is becoming more directly involved to the developments as well political as to the contents. This way of working is experienced as more effective. There is only one disadvantage, namely money. When the complete Full Board has to meet as the Executive Board does meet now it will cost EAGT on a yearly base € 10.000 extra and we do not have that kind of money. We decided on the following; we experiment with first Full Board Meeting in Amsterdam, March 2006, on the condition that national delegates pay for their selves or their NOGT's of professional organisations do pay for them.

In view of a case we have been asked to discuss with one and another about honorary membership with the aim to

intensify contacts with several Gestalt organisations – as the EAGT – from various parts over the world. While discussing some questions arise; “what to do to become a honorary member?” or “when will one be invited to become a honorary member?”

Again after animated discussions we conclude that to intensify contacts

between several Gestalt organisations from various parts all over the world certainly is worth while to be explored but not through honorary membership, perhaps co-operative membership suits this case better. Honorary membership should be earned.

Bas Lokerse, Treasurer



✎ *Contact in Israel* ✎

Sadly because of the war in Lebanon the planned project to Israel for September 2006 had to be postponed. This was a very tough decision for the Israeli Committee who had organised the project and worked hard to set up contacts and meetings.

My flight to Tel Aviv had been booked for some time and, after a lot of thought, I decided I wanted to visit Israel anyway and try and talk informally with as many people as possible.

A few days before leaving for Israel I found out that Daan van Baalen, EAGT External Relations Officer had arrived at the same decision. Then I also discovered that Peter Schulthess, EAGT Vice President and a fellow member of the Human Rights & Social Responsibility Committee was also still intending to go ahead with the trip. Joanna Hewitt Taylor from the Scarborough Psychotherapy Training Institute also decided to continue

with the visit. Eventually we were joined by four more Gestalt therapists from the Netherlands and one from Germany.

Nurith and her colleagues in Israel responded enthusiastically and positively and managed to establish a time and place to meet in Tel Aviv. We were not sure how many would make a ‘last minute’ meeting but we were heartened when the room quickly filled up with 40 people.

The meeting was chaired by Edith and we began by listening to a former member of the PLO speak with passion of his decision not to avenge the shooting of his brother because, ‘it would not bring him back’ and his work with a Jewish widow whose husband had been an Israeli pilot. Together they speak to Arab and Jewish groups about the necessity of non violence and the need for dialogue. Gandhi is their inspiration and as they each spoke we were all deeply moved by their commitment and passion.

Other members of the informal gathering, Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs, also shared passionately their hopes and aspirations. There was some time spent reflecting on insights from Gestalt theory and values, especially, dialogue, contact and respect for difference.

The meeting was set in the context of a trip to Haifa the previous day when we saw a bombed out building and was followed by a trip to Jerusalem the day after. Both Haifa and Jerusalem were peaceful and beautifully tranquil in the warm sunshine. We strolled along among the people speaking and sharing our thoughts, all determined to find a way to continue this project and stay involved.

Our thanks and deep gratitude to Nurith and her colleagues, Jewish and Arab, who inspire us with their humanity sustained under the most demanding circumstances.

Ken Evans, President EAGT

Thoughts on a trip to Israel

My decision to go to Israel was based on my experience of a previous visit and personal contacts with Gestalt therapists there, particularly Nurith Levi and Idit Levy who I knew had put so much work into preparing for the conference. During the previous visit I had been impacted by the warmth of the welcome I had received and by the commitment of people to find ways of working together. I had also been to Neve Shalom, the village where Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews have built a joint community.

This visit brought the same warmth and hospitality despite the trauma of the war and the last months. I was very moved by the meeting, which took place, by the commitment of those who attended and the determination to make space for different voices. I particularly remember an Israeli therapist talking about sitting in a shelter with an Arab client and the contact they shared. I was impacted by mothers sharing feelings about their sons being in the army and the stories of personal losses of family members from Israel and from Palestine. I felt both humbled and inspired by the courage and determination of people who had been bereaved, who, despite their loss were taking risks and working actively together with other bereaved families from both countries towards peace. I find myself passing their stories on to people I meet. It is important that their work is known.

I hope that as a Gestalt community we are able to find a way of supporting this work to continue and want to thank everyone again who made the visit so memorable.

Joanna Hewitt Taylor

About the conference on human conflict

The conference human conflict in Israel organized by Nurith Levi and others, under responsibility of the EAGT in September 2006, was cancelled because of the war in the region in August.

Understanding the cancellation, from the organizers perspective, I on the contrary saw only more reason to visit the area just now.

So I did not cancel my trip and went and found out that Joanna Taylor, Ken Evans, Peter Schulthess, five people from the Netherlands and one from Germany had the same thoughts. In Israel I was surprised by the warmth and appreciation of our visit by our hosts. Without having more to offer then to see and listen.

We visited Haifa; saw the damage and the reconstructions already underway.

Idith guiding us around showed us the polarity between the beauty of the Bahai gardens and the places hit by missiles.

On a University campus we had a meeting with a group Israeli and Arab colleagues. Here we listened to two representatives from a group called for bereavement and peace. The most important and touching message of them was:

War makes both sides suffer and creates no solution.

To take side in the conflict makes you part of and adds to the conflict.

To see both sides at the same time is not easy.

Well this is a lesson we know in our theory, but seeing this done in such a difficult praxis I found impressive.

When in my country people talk about the war, they talk about "the war" more then sixty year ago. In this country the war is from last week!

In Tel Aviv is this only visible by all the safety guards, checking you all the time. At the same time a city full of live, twenty-four hours a day.

Coming home in peace full Norway, I feel humble privileged and impressed by the tragedy and vitality of the area. Surprised by the appreciation from our hosts, appreciating our concern expressed in our coming anyway.

To Nurith Levi, the organizer of the conference:

Dear Nurith,

I want to mention my very personal experience as confused Jew!

How touched I was by the Diaspora Museum, the meetings with people I belong to and feel comfortable with and at the same time afraid to be part of.

How touched I was by the vitality, the diversity, the creativity and tragedy of the Jewish and Arab people.

How touched I was by the hospitality, I experienced.

How touched I was by Tel Aviv, so lively, at night and day, so warm and fruitful.

Today I am teaching in Tromsø, a city within the polar circle in Northern Norway, and cannot stop telling about the experiences.

Love,

Daan van Baalen,

External relation officer EAGT.

Conference “Exploring Human Conflict”

Under the auspices of Hellenic National Commission of UNESCO

I am writing this article as Katia, a human being, professional, Gestalt therapist, Greek, woman. I am signing this article as a co-founding member of Gestalt Foundation Psychotherapy & Training Center and as Chair of the Extended Board of E.A.G.T. (European Association of Gestalt Therapy).

I often wonder if there is an inner conflict between my parts, all these roles. I wonder, am I the role myself or do I play the role and in what degree? Do I react and behave differently as Katia and differently when I represent an organization or other people? Even my own thoughts are in conflict. My one side hurries up to say “certainly not, you are a very responsible person, a person with integrity, that does not get influenced by facts and circumstances, an objective and politically correct person in any case”. But at the same time my other side strikes upon to confute my first one and say “you most certainly are different, you do have stereotypes and prejudices, deep inside, you are on either someone’s side and you need to make an effort to be fair-minded and objective”.

When I am honest with myself I have the tendency to believe my second inner voice and to acknowledge the first adjective I put beside my name in the beginning of this article. I am Human. And as a Human Being, I have feelings of hate and passion; I have stereotypes and prejudices as well as enemies and friendships among my relations. Moreover, being human gives me the possibility to “be in dialogue” not just with the different conflicting parts of myself but also with the people that surround me as well, so that I will eventually “open”,

develop, move forward.

Plato, the Greek philosopher, gave to “Anthropos”, the Greek word for “Human” the connotation of “another”, which means “I look up”, in a spiritual meaning, “I look at the God”, so, for that reason, it also means that I look inside me, the God that everyone hides inside, for resolving conflicts, finding creative ways of adjustment, many times, in realities that seemed difficult at first.

So, in the light of this acknowledgement, I invite you all, through my multiple roles, to an open dialogue with our differentiality, on the 6-9 September 2007 in Athens, to the 9th European Conference of Gestalt Therapy with main theme “Exploring Human Conflict”, so as to explore together the Human Conflicts in multiple fields, such as personal, social, political, psycho-emotional, clinical practice, research, education, organizations and enterprises, society and politics and every day life, with basic keystone the respect to the human rights, a meaning closely related to the basic principles of Gestalt therapy.

At this point, I would like to underline that I have the honor and pleasure to share with you, that the Hellenic National Commission of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), acknowledging this relation, decided, after our request, to set the Conference under its auspices. This fact honors us particularly, since it opens new possibilities for recognition and collaboration of the Gestalt psychotherapy in a wider field of social applications

The Conference is part of our everyday life since 2004, when we were entrusted and undertook the respon-

sibility of its organization. It seemed quite distant then; today it is right beside us.

We would like to thank everyone, who supported and still supports us until now, in any possible way, to the organization and promotion of the Conference. We think that this Conference is a co-creation of all of us and gestures, like the one of the N.V.A.G.T. (Nederlands Vlaamse Associate voor Gestalttherapie en Gestalttheorie), which donated 2400€ as a fund for covering participation expenses for the Conference to colleagues of ours from Eastern European countries, deeply touched us.

We would also like to warmly thank the representatives of countries-members of the Extended Board of E.A.G.T., for spreading the flyers of the Conference in the best way and for informing their colleagues, Gestalt therapists and students of their countries.

Finally, we would like to thank from the bottom of our hearts, all the volunteers students and graduates of Gestalt Foundation, who shared their vision and soul with us in order to make this effort a real and wonderful fact.

As we feel like exploring and involving to a creative dialogue regarding issues that touch upon the resolving of conflicts and the human rights, we invite you all to participate in your own unique way to the planning of a conference, to the planning of a community, a society I might say, that respects itself and self-activates.

On behalf of Gestalt Foundation,
Katia Hatzilakou

Chair of the Extended Board of E.A.G.T.

Report concerning development of Training Standards for Gestalt Practitioners in Organisations

The AGM in Prague decided to install a working group with the task to develop standards for training Gestalt Practitioners in Organisations because of a growing need to discriminate between psychotherapists and other practitioners using Gestalt principles.

The statutes of the EAGT clause: 2, 2, b states: The union of persons, organisations and institutions active in Europe in the field of Gestalt psychotherapy and its applications. This opens the possibility for the inclusion of members who use the Gestalt therapy principles in other areas than psychotherapy.

At the General Meeting in Prague 2003 Daan van Baalen was appointed Chair for a Committee whose task was to formulate training standards for such practitioners. These standards to be on the same level as members practising psychotherapy.

At the General Meeting in Prague 2004 Gestalt in Organisations Committee (GPOC) was formed.

The Committee Task

To formulate training standards for practitioners working from the Gestalt principles in the fields of coaching and OD, in accordance with clause 2.2b of the EAGT statutes.

The GPOC advises a part time four-year training, because:

- teaching and practise are inextricably bounded up with each other;
- it takes time to learn and use the Gestalt principles in practise. A two-year full time study is unlikely to offer such an opportunity.

At the AGM in London 2005 a draft training standards was presented by the GPOC.

It was written by the Chair of the committee and commented and amended by:

Bas Lokense

Frans Meulmeester

Paul Barber

Sue Clayton and

Eva Rötgers Ferchland

Three principal questions appeared relevant:

1. What is the name of such a practitioner?

The name of the practitioner is difficult, because the names OD consultant and coach are under influence of fast changing fashion.

2. Should the standards be formulated in outcome and assessment?

Few, if any training organizations had yet developed a comprehensive set of standards in this format.

3. How can we proceed to support existing practitioners and training institutes, who have a Gestalt therapy education and practice coaching and OD work?

Given there are very few trained over a 4-year programme of the level of the draft standards.

The EAGT Board decided the draft set of standards should remain a 'work in progress' to be used as a 'guideline' for Training Institutes that want to develop a 4-year programme.

In the meantime, and to acknowledge the experience and expertise that already exists in the field, the EAGT

Board agreed to the formulation of a *grand parenting* procedure, in which a practitioner needs:

- to write a professional log,
- to write a paper to describe how Gestalt principles are used in organisations.
- to defend these writings in a peer group, with external verification.

The first Grand parenting peer group meeting was held in London June 2006 as a pilot project and the result was presented on the AGM in Krakow Sept. 2006

The meeting in London of well-known GPO's had with two aims:

- to develop a procedure for grand parenting by having a 'hands on' peer assessment;
- to make an advise about certification of GPO's.

Members of the peer group were: *Paul Barber, Ken Evans, Geoff Thompson and Daan van Baalen.*

During the peer group meeting, each practitioner expressed what was important in his/her praxis.

Their peers then discussed, while the person listened, what they felt was well developed in the candidates praxis.

Their peers then challenged what was the 'growing edges' in their praxis

The practitioners then expressed their experiences of the peer review and the peers came to a decision about whether to support accreditation.

This decision was based on the peer review and the practitioners log, curriculum vitae and paper on the application of Gestalt theory in organi-

sations.

A *grand parent* is thus a GPO:

- Without a formal training in GPO.
- Who has at least five years of practice as GPO.

Individuals wanting to go through the grand parenting procedure should establish a peer group in their country (normally a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4) and inform the Chair of GPOC. The Chair of GPO who will arrange for two external persons to

be present, normally one from inside the peer groups country and one from outside.

Applicants pay EAGT 50 Euro each for the procedure and certification. The applicant pays the travel (lowest) costs for the two external persons. Peer must be agreed by EAGT.

The whole peer-group meeting takes about one hour per applicant.

One of the external 1 persons informs the EAGT Secretary of the out-

come and whether to award applicant the EAGT certificate.

The EAGT office keeps the CV, log., paper presentation, and written result of the external.

The following four persons were recommended for certification and agreed by the EAGT meeting in Krakow: *Ken Evans*

Paul Barber

Geoff Thompson

Daan van Baalen.

Standards for the accreditation of training programmes in Gestalt in Organisations (DRAFT only)

Standards Coaching and OD consultancy for EAGT

Content:

Introduction

Clarification of the Committee task

Preferences of the Committee

Training institutes

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Standards

Core Curriculum,

Coaching,

Practise,

Supervision,

Outcome and Assessment

1st year

2nd year

3rd year

4th year

Introduction

The EAGT is so far a professional organisation, mainly organising the profession of Gestalt psychotherapy.

In the Gestalt community is however a growing need to discriminate between psychotherapists and other practitioners using the Gestalt principles.

One group of these practitioners can be identified as Gestalt coaches and or Gestalt organisational development consultancies.

The statues of the EAGT point 2,

2, b: The union of persons, organisations and institutions active in Europe in the field of Gestalt psychotherapy and its applications opens a possibility for inclusion of members who use the Gestalt therapy principles in other areas than psychotherapy.

On the General Meeting (GM) in Prague 2003 was Daan van Baalen appointed as chair for a Committee which task is to formulate a training standard for such practitioners. Standards shall be on the level of the members practising psychotherapy.

On the GM in Prague 2004 presented the CC a draft for a task group for Gestalt in organisations and was a committee formed.

Clarification of the Committee task

In order to clarify the task of the, article 2.2.b. must be looked at.

Gestalt psychotherapy and its applications, can be read as the Gestalt principles developed and applied in the field of psychotherapy and other fields as for example: coaching and organisation development (OD).

Having done so the task of the Committee can sound as: to formulate training standards for practitioners working from the Gestalt principles

in the fields of coaching and OD.

Preferences of the Committee

Such a practitioner shall have a level of education and experience comparable with the standard of education and experience of an ordinary Gestalt psychotherapy full member.

This practitioner using the Gestalt principles however has another function then the therapist using the same principles.

The field this practitioner is working in demands besides the same principles different expertise and skills, because of the different field-function this practitioner is fulfilling.

The CC prefers to formulate the standards for such a practitioner in outcome and how to assess this outcome, this in contrast to the standards formulated for therapists.

Defined outcome and assessment seem more appropriate to secure quality and standardisation then counting hours and core curriculum only as is done for the therapists.

The CC prefers a part time four-year training, because:

Teaching and practise are inextricably bounded up with each other.

It takes time to learn and use the

Gestalt principles in practise. A two-year fulltime study would not offer such an opportunity.

Training Institutions

Under the current circumstances, where there are mostly training institutions training therapists. Knowledge about training the Gestalt approach is more or less exclusively found in these institutions. I therefore suggest that training Gestalt coaching and OD consultancy shall be done in this centres of competency.

These centres shall besides this competency have involvement in practise, teaching and research concerning coaching and OD consultancy.

Teachers shall be trained in the Gestalt approach on the level of the EAGT standards for Gestalt therapist and having experience in Gestalt coaching and OD consultancy.

A Training Institution (TI) is an organization that has the goal of promoting Gestalt therapy, coaching and OD consultancy to teach and educate Gestalt Therapists, Gestalt Coaches and OD consultants.

An institution is an organization with functions within the legal and formal rules of the country. There has to be legal grounds for the Institution for instance a Foundation, a Society, or other legal forms of organization. The Institution as organization is legal responsible for the quality and standard of it's training program.

The TI has an address, a place to meet and a good working administration.

The TI has a form of organization that allows for internal consultation about the ongoing training program. There is an organization of trainees and graduates. There is an also regular meeting of staff members. There is written documentation about the proceedings of these meetings.

The TI brings out a yearly report

about its functioning and financial situation.

The Institution works within the code of Ethics of the EAGT.

All the trainers and trainees of the program have to comply to this code, it is part of the program.

There are written documents about the history of the Institute.

There are documents about the connectedness to the Gestalt world on an international basis.

There is a yearly overview of the activities of the TI.

The TI has formal contracts with a group of trainers and supervisors.

There is a list of recommended Gestalt coaches for personal coaching.

There is a list of supervisors who have a relationship with the TI.

The TI has a system which shows that the students follow up.

About the Training Program

The Institute will have a written description of the training program. This is called the manual. In this manual is written what is to be done in each meeting. The manual is known to the members of the training groups.

The manual gives the Gestalt approach literature which connects with the themes of the meetings. There must be room to include new developments. In the manual it is made clear of how and when the knowledge is evaluated.

One of the trainers is the coordinating trainer for the training program, he can be called the Senior Trainer. Each group has his own senior trainer or mentor or training director. It is possible that two persons are together fulfilling this function.

The program has to have yearly examinations or other equivalent evaluations.

The program has to be ended with a presentation at the end of the program, such as a final paper or thesis.

Part of the program is the code of ethics, which is known by all the participants.

There has to be at least one outside evaluator who must have the power to say that the candidate has to do extra work to get certified. This outsider can be a colleague from another Institute, someone from a nearby university of any other qualified to confirm that the correct procedures are followed. The purpose of this procedure is to guarantee a fair and open system of evaluation for the trainee's. The outsider makes a written report about the evaluation. This report must be accessible to the EAGT.

Form of the training

PART TIME

The training is part time over four years.

MODULE

The training is organized in two modules:

- *Coaching* (year one and two).
- *Gestalt organisational development (OD) consultancy* (year three and four).

The two first years is the focus on individual coaching and is concluded with an exam.

The two last years is the focus on Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy progressively placed in wider fields, as groups, teams and more complex fields as large and or international organizations, and is concluded with an exam

TEACHING FORM

The teaching form is experiential learning, that does the teaching.

This is discriminated into four areas:

- Group teaching, core curriculum;
- Personal coaching, coaching;
- Coaching OD practice, practice, practice;
- Supervision of coaching and OD work, supervision.

Training standards

ENTRY

To the training program should be:

At postgraduate level as follows:

A degree in human science or equivalent. Equivalence of qualification is to be thought of as three years post-secondary education or other qualifications which would stand as equivalent.

Open for applicants with work experience in the field of organisations in coaching, OD work, human resources, management, leadership functions etc.

STANDARDS

Are formulated in terms of Core Curriculum, Coaching, Practise, Supervision, Outcome and Assessment.

CORE CURRICULUM of the group teaching:

The core curriculum is formulated in topics and the different training institute can organise their training as they wish according to the topics, and outcomes for the different years.

TOPIC 1:

HISTORY AND ROOTS OF GESTALT THERAPY, COACHING AND OD WORK:

Philosophy; anthropology; psychoanalysis; existentialism; phenomenology; Gestalt theory; Eastern philosophies

TOPIC 2:

THEORY OF GESTALT THERAPY:

Organism/environment field; figure/ground resolution; creative adjustment; model, of change; contact-withdrawal experience; theory of self; awareness/consciousness; polarities; resistances and other contact forms: process.

TOPIC 3:

FIELDS IN FIELDS

Person in society; organisation in society; groups, teams in their context; "Self"-organisation as a function of field and its sub-functions: "Id", "Ego" and "Personality-function-awareness of fields in fields.

TOPIC 4:

TECHNIQUES OF GESTALT APPROACH

Experiment; amplification, polarization,

TOPIC 5:

DIAGNOSIS:

Gestalt diagnosis; persons, organizations, teams, groups in decline and growth in their environment

TOPIC 6:

DIFFERENT APPROACHES IN PRACTICE:

Approach of: an individual, small- and large- groups.

TOPIC 7:

FIELDS AND STRATEGIES OF APPLICATION:

Individual; pairs; groups; team and team building; organizations

TOPIC 8:

THE GESTALT COACH, GESTALT ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (OD) CONSULENT IN RELATIONSHIPS:

Expectations, projections, dialogue; contacting (as part of creative adjustment)

TOPIC 9:

PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS OF ETHICS

2. COACHING

The student will receive individual coaching in the first two years.

3. PRACTISE

In the second year starts the student with active individual Gestalt coach-

ing, besides and or in the work the students does already.

In the third and fourth year can the practise be more or less the same, however is the focus gradually more on groups, teams and larger, wider fields

4. SUPERVISION

In the second, third and fourth year is the student supervised in active coaching and OD consultancy in groups.

Coaching, Practise and Supervision are essential parts, besides the teaching, for the learning process.

OUTCOME AND ASSESSMENT

Outcome and assessment are described per year.

OUTCOME

Is formulated respectively:

- The Student shall have knowledge of...
- The Student shall understand...
- The Student shall be capable of...

ASSESSMENT

Assessment shall be done by:

- Yearly evaluations in the teaching groups according to formulated objective and subjective criteria.
- Written tasks.
- Case studies.

After two years the assessment is:

- Oral exam where the student has to show her/his capacity to reflect on case work done and focussed on Gestalt coaching work in front of two sensors.
- Two sensors assess a written article where the student shows how s/he has integrated the Gestalt coaching.

After four years the assessment is:

- Oral exam where the student has to show her/his capacity to reflect on case work done and focussed on Gestalt OD work in front of two sensors.
- A written article where the student shows how s/he has integrated the Ge-

stalt OD consultancy assessed by two sensors.

- Oral presentation of the article by the student for a public.

Outcome 1st year:

The Student shall have knowledge of:

- Field Theory
- The Formation of Gestalts
- Awareness
- Contact: Contact Functions, Contact boundaries and Contact forms
- Polarities
- Impasse
- The Curve of Experience and Creative adjustment
- The Self-Organizing Principle
- The History of Gestalt Therapy

The Student shall understand:

- How to mobilize energy by working with polarities.
- How figures are formed.
- How to use the contact functions and expressing his/herself congruently in a dialogue and
- How to noticing unfinished Gestalts.
- A coaching process.

The Student shall be capable of:

- Contact Functions.
- Awareness of what is happening with him/herself, with other and between self and other.
- To give/receive, reflect upon and manage feedback.
- The ability to express personal process both verbally and in writing.

Assessment 1st year:

The student's written assignment shall contain a description of his/her learning process during the First Year and a description of a Gestalt Theoretic Model. The assignment shall consist of a maximum of three pages with single line spacing and a size 12-type face. There should be a minimum of five references to the literature. The

examination should fulfil the following criteria:

- Demonstrate that the student has become aware of his/her own ways of contacting his/her surroundings.
- Demonstrate that the student has become aware of his/her own pattern of reacting.
- Demonstrate that he/she is knowledgeable of basic Gestalt theory by relating the theory to his/her own personal development during the first year.

The student's personal oral evaluation shall comprise of a presentation of parts of the written dissertation in a form the student themselves choose.

This presentation can be carried out with the use of role-play, pantomime, other creative forms and dialogue. Fellow students and teachers can pose questions.

The student shall in this oral presentation fulfil the following criteria:

- Demonstrate that he/she can use the contact functions, in other words, to see and speak clearly, hear what others say and display congruence in his/her method of expression.
- Have developed "awareness" of what is happening with self, with the other and between those two.
- Demonstrate that he/she can give and receive constructive feedback, can reflect upon it and manage it.
- Demonstrate that he/she can evaluate his own process in relation to Gestalt theory.

The teacher along with the student assesses whether or not he/she can go on to the following year and /or which requirements the student must fulfil in order to continue.

A student can be asked to take leave of absence or to leave the Study Programme permanently following evalu-

ation, if he/she has not fulfilled the objective and/or the subjective criteria at the end of the school year. In the case of a student being asked to take leave of absence for a year the Institute may insist that the student takes extra tuition in the form of e.g. individual or group coaching/therapy, supervision or supplementary tuition.

The student must apply on his/her own initiative for permission to begin the next year when such tasks are fulfilled. The applicant must attend a new interview at the Institute for a new.

Outcome 2nd year:

Contents and objectives for the second year:

- Introduction of the Gestalt principles applied to coaching. Emphasis is placed on a more intensive and broader study of the Theory of Gestalt, which was begun the first year.
- The focus is aimed at the student as a participant in a group as well as his/her personal development. The Group Process is also emphasised.

The Student shall attain knowledge of:

- The dialogue,
- The steps in a coaching process,
- Phenomenological methods,
- The coaching function in a field,
- Working with polarities and paradoxes,
- To make and grade experiments,
- To bring the 'there and then' to the 'here and now',
- To work with the different contact forms,
- Verbal and non-verbal communication,
- The wholeness principle in psyche and body and in dialogue.
- Conflicts, Ethics
- Leaderships-styles, Group phenomenon and dynamics, Teams and team building
- Knowledge of own values

The Student shall understand:

- How the student is affected and affects other(s) in the field.
- The steps in a coaching process
- The difference between interpreting and seeing phenomena.(explaining and describing)
- The difference between understanding through cause and effect, phenomenology and experimenting.
- The connection between body, feelings and thoughts.
- The difference between contents and process.
- The connection between ethics, professionalism and parallel processes in coaching.

The Student shall be capable of:

- Using the contact functions and expressing his/herself congruently in a dialogue.
- Noticing unfinished Gestalts.
- Noticing which interventions or feedback are functional in relation to which contact mechanisms /figures and unfinished Gestalts.
- Discriminating between separate fields.
- Giving support.
- Differentiating between verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Coaching a client according the above-mentioned capabilities.
- Seeing which coaching methods which are appropriate to which problems and which interventions are appropriate in the different phases of the coaching process.
- How to perform these interventions.

Assessment 2nd year

A coaching case wherein the student shows how one or more of the theoretical concepts is applied .The student's written assignment is carried out during the second last group meeting.

The student shall in this assignment demonstrate that he/she under-

stands:

- Basic principles in Gestalt Theory.
- Basic principles in Gestalt coaching methods.
- Evaluation of personal process is carried out during the final group meeting as in the first year.
- Oral Coaching Examination with two censors present, concluding the first module of two year. The purpose of the oral presentation is.
- The purpose of the oral coaching examination is that the student shall demonstrate that he/she has coaching knowledge and skills in accordance with the objectives of the coaching training programme and that the student shall show how he/she practises coaching based on the Gestalt principles.
- We attach an overview of the objectives and contents of the Oral Examination.
- The school finds clients for the oral examination.
- The clients are student volunteers from the first year.
- The candidate should not be familiar with the client or the external censor.

Procedure for the Oral Examination:

- The candidate works for 30 minutes with the client in the presence of both censors. He/she is responsible for keeping time. The client leaves the room when the coaching is over.
- The candidate describes the coaching process in his/her own words.
- The candidate reflects over how the coaching process can be described using Gestalt theoretical concepts. (see below).
- The candidate sums up, and puts his/her reflections in a context, e.g. regarding future coaching work with the client.

The censors are aware of how much he/she needs to lead the candidate through the reflection process. (e.g.

by asking leading questions).

Requirements for the Candidate:

- The candidate shall be able to reflect upon which figures are present in the field.
- The candidate shall be able to describe the work in relation to creative adjustment and or cycle of experience.
- The candidate shall be able to reflect upon how he/she uses him/herself in the field.
- The candidate shall be able to describe which awareness zones he/she used in the work.
- The candidate shall be able to reflect upon which choices he/she made during the work, how he/she moved between the "here and now" and "there and then" and on the changes in the field.
- The candidate shall be able to describe and reflect upon choice of working hypotheses and connect theoretic models to them.
- The candidate shall be able to describe what can be the next step with the client and give grounds for his/her choice.
- Assessment of the session and the theory.

After the candidate has explained him/herself and given grounds for choices in the coaching session, the censors discuss in the presence of the candidate, what the candidate did well and what he/she can develop further. Both the coaching and theoretical parts are given emphasis. They assess whether the candidate has passed or not and inform him/her of this immediately. If the censors are in disagreement or are uncertain they can discuss their assessments with colleagues and the candidate must then await the result. The censor's decision must be given the same day.

Outcome 3rd year:

Objectives for the third year:

The practicing of Gestalt principles in coaching and organisational developmental (OD) skills and methods. The focus is moved from the process of coaching in a “one to one” field to larger and or wider fields.

The Student shall attain knowledge of:

- Recognizing and intervening on:
 - different levels of system;
 - stages in group processes;
 - conflicts in groups.

The student shall understand:

- The connection between ethics, professionalism and parallel processes in coaching and special OD work.
- Stages and conflicts in group and or team process and the group and or team members function in the group and or team dynamic.
- The difference between “there and then” and “here and now” of groups and or teams.
- The connection between the past (history, environment and culture), present and future (creative adjustment and “the Self Organizing Principle”).
- Formation of gestalts, parts and wholes, figure-ground.

The student shall be capable of:

- Seeing what motivates and hinders growth, in individuals, groups and teams.
- Intervening in smaller groups and or teams.
- Leading smaller groups and teams.

Assessment 3rd year:

The written part should consist of:

- An essay describing a case of group and or team in its process over time and applying one or more of the theoretical concepts. This description shall include the following elements:

- Background information about the case;

- A description of what the student does and says in a sequence of work (verbatim);

- Gestalt theory of the interventions and methods the student uses, and a discussion of choice of methods/interventions.

- The report shall be a maximum of four pages of text with a size 12-type face and single line spacing.
- There shall be 10 references to the literature.
- The student shall demonstrate in this written work that he/she can:
 - Relate Gestalt theory to their own practice
 - Think methodically and critically while working as a Gestalt Coach respective OD consultant.

The oral part should consist of:

- A presentation of the same case that is described in writing. The oral presentation can be in the form of role play and/or dialogue.
- A description of the students process in becoming a Gestalt Coach respective OD consultant and
- What the student needs to continue this process.

The student shall demonstrate that he/she is able to and understands:

- How to support others process.
- How to work ethically and professionally as a Gestalt Coach respective OD consultant.
- How to identify and separate self in therapeutic work
- How to build up and use working hypotheses in Gestalt Coach respective OD consultant work.
- How he/she takes his/her place in the group.

The written part of the examination is carried out at home and is delivered two weeks before assessment.

The oral evaluation is carried out during the last meeting of each school year. During the oral evaluation the teacher and fellow students make a statement about the student, expressing an opinion on what they believe the student has learned and what he/she can develop further. The teacher makes a statement regarding whether the student can continue the course, and if the student is required to fulfil special conditions to do so. The teacher and student discuss whether the student can go on to the next year and what he/she may need to do to precede further.

A student can be asked to take leave of absence or to leave the Study Programme permanently following evaluation, if he/she has not fulfilled the objective and/or the subjective criteria. In the case of a student being asked to take leave of absence for a year the Institute may insist that the student takes extra tuition in the form of e.g. individual or group therapy, supervision or supplementary tuition.

The student must apply on their own initiative for permission to begin the next year when such requirements are fulfilled. The applicant must attend a new interview at the Institute for a new assessment.

Outcome 4th year:

Objectives for the fourth year are:

To integrate earlier education, work experience, life experience and “way of looking at the world” with Gestalt philosophy and method

The Student shall attain knowledge of:

- Own and others “ way of looking at the world” and believe systems.
- What motivates and hinders growth, in large systems.
- Social, cultural, political and religious contexts in processes, in individuals, groups, teams and large systems.

- The coach and OD consultant, working from the Gestalt principles, place in the society in relation to laws and regulations, ethics and professionalism.
- How to formulate a problem in coaching and OD work in writing, explain it theoretically, discuss and draw it to a conclusion (written/oral final assessment).

The Student shall understand:

- How to create possibilities for growth and evolution in large systems.
- The connection between the past (history, environment and culture), present and future creative adjustment and “the Self Organizing Principle” of larger systems.
- The formation of gestalts and figure-ground of larger systems.
- The relation between parts and wholes.

The Student shall be capable of:

- Leading processes in different fields.
- Making an assessment based on the Gestalt principles, assessing a prognosis and planning in relation to these assessments.
- Recognizing and handling parallel processes in relation with ethics and professionalism.
- OD work in different phases of OD processes.
- Recognizing and intervening in different phases of processes and on different levels of large, and complex system.
- Working with cross-cultural issues.
- Leading and organising large projects as: search conferences, reorganisations and fusions.
- Working as an OD consultancy team in organizations (Site visits where the students learn to under supervision.)

Assessment 4th year

During the fourth year the student shall write an examination assignment

at home, present this assignment orally for the public and take an Oral Therapy Examination with two censors present.

The objective of the written home examination is that the student shall integrate earlier experiences and their “way of looking at the world” with Gestalt philosophy, theory and methods and demonstrate an ability to carry out a simple research project.

Criteria for the written examinations assignment in the fourth year:

During the fourth year the students shall write a home examination assignment. This final assignment is of a self-chosen topic. The subject shall be chosen from their experience in using Gestalt principles in coaching and or OD consultancy. The purpose of writing this assignment is that the student shall integrate his/her life experience, “way of looking at the world”, Gestalt theory, methods and practical Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy work experience.

The object for the examination is:

- To demonstrate how the student uses Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy in practical work (case)
- To demonstrate the connection between the student’s “way of looking at the world” and the case description
- To demonstrate that the student can describe and discuss Gestalt theory and methods in relation to practice
- To demonstrate that the student has learned critical thinking and can carry out a research project.

The assignment must contain the following points:

Introduction:

- Description of a problem
- Reasons for choice of assignment
- Reasons for delimitation

Contents:

- Elaboration of the problem

- Refer to other literature or research within the same area
- Describe personal “way of looking at the world” and how this connects/relates to the problem
- Describe your workplace
- Describe the case
- Show what is done and how it is done (word for word)
- Relate this to theory, discuss it and choice of method
- Conclusion
- Discuss the possible consequences the conclusion may lead to
- Conclusion:
- Summation
- Conclusion connected to introduction

The assignment shall be a maximum of 25 pages with a size 12 typefaces and single line spacing. Title page, contents, reference list, illustrations and graphs are additional. There shall be a minimum of 20 references to the literature with references to pages. At least 15 of these must be from the Study Programme’s literature list.

The purpose of the oral presentation of this assignment is that the student shall show how he/she practises Gestalt therapy. In this way the student demonstrates that he/she can hold a dialogue with an audience and can be clear and open in relation to their own working methods. The student is considered as having passed when he/she completes the presentation. The presentation will be commented upon but the student will not be assessed on its contents.

The purpose of the oral examination is that the student shall demonstrate that he/she has knowledge and skills in accordance with the outcome of the Training Programme.

We attach an overview of the objectives and contents of the Oral Examination.

Criteria for the oral examination in the fourth year:

The oral exam after four year has the same structure as the exam after the first two year concluding the coaching module. The focus of the examination is now on Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy.

The school finds clients for the oral examination. The clients are student volunteers from the first and second years. The candidate should not be familiar with the client or the external censor.

Procedure for the Oral Examination:

The candidate works for 30 minutes with the client in the presence of both censors. He/she is responsible for keeping time. The client leaves the room when the session is over.

The candidate describes the Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy process in his/her own words.

The candidate reflects over how the Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy process can be described using Gestalt theoretical concepts.

The candidate reflects on the wider field aspects of the process presented by the client as: leadership, group and or team processes.

The candidate sums up, and puts his/her reflections in a context, e.g. regarding future Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy work with the client, or the system the client is part of. The censors are aware of how much he/she needs to lead the candidate through the reflection process and special to go from Gestalt coaching towards Gestalt OD consultancy. (e.g. by asking leading questions).

Requirements for the Candidate:

- The Candidate shall be able to reflect upon which figures present in which field and how.
- Creative adjustment /cycle of experience.

The candidate shall be able to describe the work in relation to one of these models. Further how the different field functions are or are not in phase.

Awareness

The candidate shall be able to reflect upon how he/she and the other field functions/participants use him/herself and themselves in the field.

The candidate shall be able to describe which awareness zones he/she and the others used in the work.

The candidate shall be able to reflect upon which choices he/she made during the work, how he/she moved between the "here and now" and "there and then" and on the changes in the field.

Developing working hypotheses

The candidate shall be able to describe and reflect upon choice of working hypotheses and connect theoretic models to them.

The candidate shall be able to describe what can be the next step with the client, the systems the client is part of and give grounds for his/her choice.

Assessment of the session and the theory

After the candidate has explained him/herself and given grounds for choices in the Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy session, the censors discuss in the presence of the candidate, what the candidate did well and what he/she can develop further. Both the Gestalt coaching and or Gestalt OD consultancy and theoretical parts are given emphasis. They assess whether the candidate has passed or not and inform him/her of this immediately. If the censors are in disagreement or are uncertain they can discuss their assessments with colleagues and the candidate must then await the result. The censor's decision must be given the same day.

The examination is assessed with *pass* or *fail*.

Procedure

This paper must be seen as a second draft. The first was presented on a Committee meeting in Prague 2004.

There was already suggested:

The form of outcome and assessment and not hours.

A four-year part time program with a level comparable with the therapists.

This paper will be sent to the Committee members for discussion.

Where after a third draft can be made, which can be presented:

First to the Executive Committee of the EAGT.

Secondly, when OK, to the General meeting.

The second draft is sent by mail before 31-12-2004

Answers, suggestions and ads must be sent by mail to Daan van Baalen, the chair of the Committee, latest 31-1-2005.

The third draft will be formulated as result of the answers, suggestions and ads, where after presented to Executive Committee of the EAGT.

Reports from European Countries

NEWS FROM ITALY

by Gianni Fransecetti,
representative of SIPG

In Italy Psychotherapy is a specialisation limited to psychologists and medical doctors. There are specific Institutes recognised and controlled by the Minister of Universities and Education. GT is one of the recognised methods and there are in Italy many different schools in GT. They are brought together in the FISIG.

The NOGT in Italy is the SIPG (Società Italiana Psicoterapia Gestalt, www.sipg.it), founded in 1987, its members are individual psychotherapists and not Institutes.

SIPG is working with the purpose of raising the level of Gestalt community, both regarding the professional quality and the number of members. This work is necessary for the vitality of the association and for the possibility to sustain the economic costs of its management.

SIPG has activated some opportunities and services for members with the aim to sustain their professional growth and to facilitate exchanges and scientific dialogue.

Some of these initiatives are:

- 1) To simplify the organisational structure of SIPG, we have reformed the statute, also from the perspective of increasing membership;
- 2) To expand membership and to involve young psychotherapists, we promote the enrolment in the association of students in their last year of specialisation: they are able to become members without any fees and participate in association life. They become ordinary members when they complete psychotherapy training: until then they do not have the right to vote;

3) We have a database which is continuously updated that contains a directory of all our members: this directory is accessible to people that want to find a Gestalt therapist in Italy via internet. The format of the site is on a geographical basis or from the area of specialisation of the therapist;

4) We have begun to publish a SIPG Newsletter (number zero came out in July and it is available on our website) with the purpose of: a) informing members about institutional and associative activities of EAGT, EAP, FIAP; b) informing members about significant Gestalt initiatives in Italy and abroad; c) informing members about books, journals, articles in Gestalt therapy; d) promoting and advertising members initiatives; e) promoting research collaboration among members;

5) We are promoting a support group for newly fledged psychotherapists that want to present their works to congresses. They can receive orientation and feedback about their proposals.

Besides these SIPG activities, there are in Italy other significant Gestalt initiatives, especially regarding the dialogue between Gestalt therapy and other approaches. We think this dialogue can stimulate development of our theory and growth of our community.

Among these initiatives there are:

- A meeting organised by the Istituto di Gestalt, HCC will take place next January in Rome: there will be a dialogue between some Italian Gestalt therapists and some of the well known psychoanalysts of inter-subjectivity (among them, Daniel Stern);
- The birth of a new international journal: "Studies in Gestalt Therapy.

Dialogical Bridges". This new review, restoring "Studies in Gestalt Therapy", the Italian journal edited in English by Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb from 1992 to 1998, is the result of a collaboration between the three editors (Dan Bloom -New York Institute Gestalt Therapy-, Frank Staemmler -Zentrum für Gestalttherapie, Würzburg-, and Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb -HCC Institute, Siracusa-) and other significant colleagues in Gestalt Therapy development. It has the purpose of establishing connections and "dialogical bridges" between Gestalt Therapy and other approaches. The first issue will come out next spring on "Self and inter-subjectivity". You can find all information on the website www.studies-in-gestalt.org

- The congress of FIAP (Federazione Italiana Associazioni di Psicoterapia) that will take place in Florence in June 2007. There, psychotherapists of different orientations will dialogue for four days on clinical and theoretical topics. The last FIAP congress in 2005 (organised by *Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb* in Siracusa) was a big success for a number of participants (the requests of participation had been more than the possibility to accept them) and also for quality of dialogue and acknowledgement of reciprocal differences and specificities.

NEWS FROM BELGIUM

by Daniel Collet-Cassart
Representative of the SBG

I would like to summarize the information of the SBG regarding its activity, particularly in relationship with EAGT.

1° Our agreement with our Flemish friends of the NVAGT, named

BBC (Belgian Bridge Committee), is now completed and we still have to organize an “official” meeting around the BBC concept amongst people from NVAGT and SBG. This will hopefully be done within the next year

2° The SBG has organized a colloquium entitiled “The attitude of the Gestalt-Therapist” compared to the ones of the analyst and of the system therapist. It will take place at the University of Liège in Belgium the 20th of October in collaboration with the latter.

3° The SBG is strongly involved in the present discussions, at the national level in Belgium, related to the official definition of the therapist. Indeed a project law is about to be proposed to the Belgian Parliament. This project law makes room for therapists outside the university network. If we are lucky this project will be deposited before the end of the year. The SBG is also involved in the federation of humanistic therapies in Belgium in order to have sufficient weight towards the political world for future confrontation.

4° The SBG continues its involvement in promoting the highest standards for Gestalt Therapy trainings in French speaking Belgium through discussions and confrontations with various partners active in the training of GT.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

by Christof Weber
Representative of the DVG

In 2005 a new period of cooperation for the Gestalt community started. In May 2005 the Gestalt institutes of Austria, Germany and Switzerland jointly organised a congress in Munich honouring the co-founder of Gestalt Therapy Lore Perls on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Around 300 participants gathered, making this premiere of collaboration

by the German speaking institutes an encouraging success.

A documentation of the congress with some speeches from Renate Perls, Dan Blom from the New York Gestalt Institute can be found under <http://www.dvg-gestalt.deltagung2005.html>

A highlight of the congress was the first presentation of a 90 minutes documentary film by Wolf Lindner and Christof Weber “At the Boundary – Lore Perls and Gestalt Therapy”. The film documents the life and work of Lore Perls and her influence on the development of Gestalt Therapy until now. The film was made possible by donations from European and New York institutes. An English version is now also available and can be ordered for 35 € in the DVG office. EAGT and the Dutch Association kindly supported the translation. Visit here: <http://www.dvg-gestalt.delfilm.html>

In 2006 DVG celebrated its 20th anniversary. A special publication tracing the history of the German Gestalt Association has been published. There are texts and photos of the past 20 years on 100 pages.

In May the foundation ceremony was part of the congress named: “Aggression – Self-assertation – Courage of one’s convictions”. Organised together with three other German Gestalt institutes nearby Fulda. We are glad that 350 participants came to the congress. There are already the main lectures hold by G. Wheeler, H. Petzold, S. Blankertz and others available as a book. More information can be found on our website.

Efforts were undertaken to inform about a hundred German magazines and newspapers about the event, Gestalttherapy and DVG in general. This initiative is part of our efforts to make Gestalt better known in the public.

Next DVG congress will be in Berlin in May 18-20th, on the theme of *Gestalt therapy and Love and Sexuality*.

Within DVG a quality-management-group was established in order to support the institutes in maintaining the general standards.

The DVG-board, especially Lotte Hartmann-Kottek together with a lawyer, started another attempt aiming to promote the conditions for scientific acknowledgement of Gestalt Therapy in Germany.

DVG now includes nine institutes, one more than 2005, and about 950 individual members. It was the first year since 2000, that we had more new members coming than leaving. As in many other public institutions the succession of generations lags behind. A number of older members are leaving – where are the young Gestalt Therapists? We need to focus on that problem and attract the next generation. Otherwise Gestalt gets lost in the broad spectrum of psychotherapy.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

by Gudrun Wyss
Representative of the SVG

After having celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2005, the SVG, *Schweizer Verein für Gestalttherapie und Integrative Therapie*, has recently gone through a process of updating and adjusting their performance: the website www.gestalttherapie.ch got a completely new design; a flyer has been realised for the purpose of general promotion and attracting new members; the layout of our GESTALT journal, that is being published three times a year, has been gently modernised, and – latest news – the journal’s name has been modified to *GESTALT & INTEGRATION*, according to the vote of the members’ general meeting in spring 2006.

Now for some of you this will call for further explanation. Therefore let me tell you a bit more about the background and characteristics of the

swiss association. Ever since the foundation, the association was meant to be a kind of umbrella organisation for all gestaltists, of different provenance, of different trainings they might have been going through. And up to today, the SVG has been able to house not only Gestalt practitioners but also practitioners of Integrative Therapy (IT) under the same roof. Consequently for several years the full name of the association, translated into English, has been: 'Swiss association for Gestalt Therapy and Integrative Therapy'. Of course, there has repeatedly been conflict and argument coming up about the various implications of this joining together. But now once again members and board of the SVG made clear, that they are determined to keep up the common grounds. The modification of the journal's name is an acknowledgement and reaffirmation of this intention and policy.

Another recent decision of great importance within the SVG has been the commitment to a widespread research project, that is being started by the Swiss Charta, encompassing different psychotherapy modalities in a "level-1" field study of therapy outcome. This longterm commitment has implications concerning financial contribution as well as personal participation of SVG members. Membership fees have been raised reasonably and therapists are asked to take part with their clients/patients in the outlined research design. The first step, the pilot study phase, has already started.

A further commitment of SVG for the near future is to support the realisation of the 2nd German speaking Conference of Gestalt, in cooperation between the Gestalt associations of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, scheduled for November 7-9, 2008, also taking place in Zürich, Switzerland. We will keep you informed!

An unfinished work in progress

on our agenda is the renewal of the membership status in the EAGT and the accreditation als NOGT, National Organisation of Gestalt Therapy. And an ongoing issue and permanent challenge is finding new members, and preferably young colleagues. For the time being, the average age of an SVG members would be about 50 years, which means that there is a lot of professional experience around, but also quite a lot of professionals about to retire. Still we are confident that steps and activities as mentioned above will have positive effects pretty soon.

LETTER FROM GREECE

by Sina Triantafyllou

Representative of the The National
Greek Gestalt Association

First Experience of the EAGT
/family

Okay!!!! Let me first introduce myself: I am *Sina Triantafyllou*, I am a member of the *National Greek Gestalt Association* and I represent the Association at the meetings of E.A.G.T.

The need to write something for the Newsletter was because my first time in E.A.G.T during the meeting in Krakow was an important and unforgettable experience. WHY?? Because after getting knowing all persons at the meeting and having been so welcome in the E.A.G.T. and after representing my Association and after having a great dinner-night with everyone I got into the Polish hospital for an appendix-surgery!!! I had much pain and I was frightened being in the hospital of a foreign country. My Greek colleagues and friends, Katia and Maria, made me feel very safe and their presence was very helpful and I knew I could lean on them. The most surprising and unexpected thing was that the members of E.A.G.T. showed to me much interest and support with many ways although they knew me

for 2 days and this is why I write to the title the word FAMILY next to the word E.A.G.T. After the surgery finished and everything was okay, people from E.A.G.T. came to the hospital and not only for one time.

So with this letter I thank you because you were a very pleasant and supportive company to me, we laughed a lot, I cried when I felt so and you gave me a hug and a smile when I needed it. I stayed alone in the hospital only at nighttime because during the day you, people, were there. When someone was going away someone else was coming to visit me. I received much concern also through letters and emails and cards during my presence there and during my recovery back in Greece. I received much without asking for it and this meant very much for myself. I felt like I knew you from before...so this experience turned to be easier, nicer and unique in a good way. I was not afraid anymore; I didn't feel alone any time. And I need to say that no matter where someone comes from or what language speaks he/she is a human person and can give the most important things that are universal and meaningful: A hug, a smile, a kind eye-sight, a joke, an ear, a supportive touch..... A thank is the least I can express through this letter.

When someone is swimming for the first time (like me at my first time in a hospital) so many hands to help the person is very important. You have been like a family to me the time that I needed so much my real family. It is very touching and unforgettable for me yet and it will always be.... This experience is written in my heart with many and sweet memories and without any pain. You are very "Gestaltish" and you know what I mean by saying this: the importance of a relationship, of senses, of giving and taking, of the here and now, of the presence, of respect, of the field theory...

So a special and big thank and a hug to Katia, Maria, Olaf, Detlef, Tomasz (many thanks to you, my Polish friend and your son that you have communicated with the doctors and took so much care of me until the last minute I was at the airport of Krakow), Ewa, Joppie, Guus, Ulla, Peter, Nancy, Marga, Ken and to all the persons that were in Krakow at the E.A.G.T. meeting. See you all in Amsterdam!!!

Lots of smiles from

Sina

s_triantafyllou@hotmail.com).

REPORT FROM A STRESSFUL PROCESS IN DENMARK

David Kirk-Campbell, co-leader of Gestaltterapeutisk Institut ApS (GI)

Pass along what I have learned from the recent Danish evaluation of psychotherapy:

- be on the alert that different professional groups, if given the opportunity, may use the evaluation in their own self interest;
- check the credentials, published statements and papers of the expert panel for conflict of interests and prejudicial attitudes;
- check the structure of the evaluation to ensure that the expert panel meets with the institute leaders, teachers, students and extern censors;
- organize other institutes participating in the evaluation to share information and costs for eventual lawyer and court costs;
- select a lawyer specializing in contract law, to check all written correspondence and contracts between the institutes and the evaluating organization. This should include a review of the governmental documents giving authority to the evaluating organization.

What follows are the highlights of the story of the Danish evaluation, which give a background for these five

recommendations.

2005 January – The evaluation project leader from the Social Ministry, at an open meeting with c. 150 psychotherapy institute leaders, told that the Social Ministry will be asking the Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA) to evaluate psychotherapy. We were told that the primary reason for this is that a large government sponsored conference on eating disorders in 2001 concluded that:

- a. eating disorders is a huge problem in Denmark;
- b. there are not enough psychologists and psychiatrists to meet the need;
- c. psychotherapy is effective and efficient in treatment of eating disorders.

The project leader emphasized that this will be only an evaluation and not an accreditation or a recognition. This restricted focus came after the Social Ministry had consulted with representatives from the psychiatric and psychological groups. The Social Ministry wanted the result to be that referring institutions and people can read if a psychotherapist is a graduate of an institute which has been positively evaluated.

2005 March – Danmarks Evaluering Institut (EVA) opened the evaluation of psychotherapy institutes announcing that the first step to pre-qualify is to meet the following qualifications:

- a) 4 year education
- b) 800 hours of teaching
- c) Competent teachers
- d) Extern censors for examinations

GI pre-qualified without a problem, as GI has had a 4 year education with over 1,200 hours since 1987 and extern censors since 2001.

2005 April – EVA invited the first three pre-qualifying institutes, including GI, for an orientation meeting. At this point, we were optimistic that the result would be that the quality of psychotherapy education in Denmark

would become more prominent in public awareness.

2005 June – As the site visits began the picture changed radically. GI and other institute leaders came to the conclusion that the process that EVA is following is unprofessional, not objective and influenced by self interest of competing professions for the following reasons:

The expert panel consisted of 4 doctor/psychiatrists and 2 psychologists all of whom have a psychoanalytic background and who lack knowledge and experience with the different modalities of psychotherapy that they are being evaluated. One of the expert panelists, who is a psychiatrist and president of the Psychiatrists Union of Denmark, had been quoted in the newspaper that in her opinion only medical doctors are qualified to become psychotherapists.

EVA at no time asked the psychotherapy institutes of Denmark for recommendations as to whom they would recommend to be on the expert panel. In Sweden it is a standard procedure to ask the profession being evaluated to recommend experts they think are qualified.

The structure did not allow for any meeting, spoken communication or direct written communication between the institute leaders and the expert panel. The institutes at no time learned which two of the six expert panelists read and evaluated their institute.

EVA sent two employees to the site visit with the written questions from the expert panel.

These two people are educated as a sociologist and economist, who had previously apologized that they did not have an education in psychotherapy and may have to ask for explanation of concepts or words.

The questions revealed a lack of understanding of psychotherapy in

general and Gestalt in particular and the representatives lacked a background to understand either the question or the answer. We were told that the answers to the written application were too short, when the instructions to the application stated that answers should be short and precise. There was negativity and judgment about the fact that GI taught theory after experience, a fundamental principle of learning since 1984 (Kolb, David A. "Learning by Experience", 1984).

We were told that psychotherapists are not qualified to work with clients who have experienced incest. We wrote a long letter¹ of protest and were told that EVA would receive the letter even though the procedure did not allow for written response after the site visit. This letter was not answered.

2005 November – The Institutes, except for one with a psychoanalytic background, had such a negative experience with the site visit, that the leaders of the Organization of Psychotherapy Education Institutes (SPUD) and the Union of Individual Psychotherapists (PF) wrote a letter¹ of complaint. In a meeting with these two leaders, the representatives of EVA said there was no reason to change the procedure or structure of the evaluation and if the institutes were dissatisfied with the evaluation they could have a new evaluation three months after the completion of this evaluation.

At this point, the project leader for the Social Ministry took a four month leave of absence. For a period there was no project leader from the Social Ministry for institutes to contact.

GI consulted our lawyer. He listened for half an hour, laughed and said this case is about common sense. He said, "It is like, asking a carpenter to inspect the work of an electrical engineer and the carpenter reports back to the building engineer who evaluates the work of the electrical engineer".

He said, there are two choices, one political to expose the self interest and the other is legal, which involves a review of all documents to determine if EVA has broken a law or procedure.

GI asked SPUD members who are participating in the evaluation to join us in working with this lawyer. Some say no and others simply do not respond. GI proceeded alone.

2006 January – Our lawyer sent a complaint to the Minister of Education stating that EVA's procedure does not follow the law establishing Denmark's Evaluation Institute. The Ministry of Education declined to handle the complaint and wrote that the complaint should be sent directly to EVA.

2006 February – Our lawyer sent the same complaint to EVA and at the same time our lawyer sent a complaint¹ to the government's Ombudsman (who in Denmark has the last word) asking him to take a position on the fact that the Minister of Education declined to respond to our complaint. Within a few days after the Ombudsman had received our lawyer's letter, EVA changes its attitude and behavior 180 degrees. We received a phone call from EVA telling us that there will soon be a change in the evaluation of psychotherapy in Denmark.

2006 March 2 – EVA issued a press release¹, stating that the current evaluation of psychotherapy is stopped and that nothing will be published on EVA's homepage.

2006 April 1 – EVA wrote a letter stating that EVA is no longer available to evaluate psychotherapy in Denmark and if the psychotherapy institutes want to be evaluated they need to find other evaluating institutes.

EVA refunds to all participating institutes the amount paid to EVA for the evaluation. SPUD pays for half of GI's lawyer expenses. The Social Ministry reimburses GI for other ex-

penses. GI's core teacher group is still recovering from the effort, stress and disappointment of this process. GI's next step is to apply for an evaluation through the EAGT.

These letters can be read in Danish on GI's homepage:

www.gestaltterapeutisk-institut.dk

NEWS FROM AUSTRIA

Written by Heide Anger

The Second German-language Writers' Conference for Gestalt Therapists in Vienna

The Second German-language Writers' Conference for Gestalt Therapists took place in Vienna from June 22nd to June 25th, 2006. It was indeed a huge success for the organizers (Nancy Amendt-Lyon,

Achim Votsmeier-Röhr and Peter Schulthess) and the participating colleagues from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Excitement, debate, support, joy, lively and constructive criticism characterized the atmosphere; the result of the four extremely intense days was abounding motivation to continue writing.

Following the First German-language Writers' Conference for Gestalt Therapists in Bad Grönenbach, Germany, two years ago, the meeting was held this time in Vienna, Austria. Nancy Amendt-Lyon (representing the FS IG/ÖAGG, Austria) was responsible for the organization of the venue in Vienna,

Achim Votsmeier-Röhr's (representing the DVG, Germany) patient and consequential manner enabled us to send in our manuscripts in due time, and Peter Schulthess represented the Swiss SVG in the organizational team. Representatives from all the Austrian Gestalt training institutes were among the participants (IG/ÖAGG, IGWien, ÖAGP).

Once again we followed the tradition of sending the manuscripts of unpublished works in advance to all the participants so that they could be read before the conference began. In order not to affect the course of publications-in-the-making, the themes we dealt with will be summarized: approaches to developmental psychology, fundamentalism against the background of identity, body-oriented further developments in Gestalt therapeutic work with Tai Chi and the Feldenkrais method, the presentation of the Gestalt approach to a lay audience, taking a position regarding methodological clarification and the drawing of boundaries concerning a professional organization and training institute, the discussion of the Gestalt theoretical basic assumption – starting from Smuts’ “holistic project”, and the appearance of “disorders” in Gestalt therapy.

The abundance of manuscripts was so demanding that we had to work in a disciplined manner, yet we were too excited to tire easily. Discipline and friendliness were essential atmospheric traits of this conference and they are obviously reflected in the structure of our work process: Every participant chooses a facilitator, who represents this person when he or she presents his or her manuscript. The facilitator makes sure that the discussion deals with the concerns of the author and directs the process in a constructive manner. A second person is chosen by each author to take notes during the presentation. In this way, each author is free to discuss during his/her own presentation and is additionally supported by the facilitator and the person taking comprehensive notes on all the praise, questions arising and suggestions for improvement and, of course, publication. In addition, we agreed to continue working on the manuscripts until they can

be published, and pledged to inform each other by e-mail of each step of the process. This form of active, dialogic and supportive cooperation, for which we are all very grateful to one another, fostered the creation of a climate conducive to intellectual growth and exchange among colleagues. Gestalt at its best!

Once again, the feat of motivating colleagues to continue writing was superbly achieved. The next German-language Writers’ Conference for Gestalt Therapists will be held in Zürich, Switzerland, from March 13th to 16th, 2008. Information about this conference can be downloaded from the Website: <http://autorenkonferenz.gestaltpsychotherapie.de>

I would like to personally thank the organizers of this year’s conference, as well as every participant, who, in turn, all join me in thanking the Fachsektion für Integrative Gestalttherapie/ÖAGG for the financial support for renting the venue and for the refreshments.

Heide Anger, Vienna

Member of the IGWien (Institut für Integrative Gestalttherapie Wien) & participant of the Writers’ Conference.

“Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be”

from Thomas A. Kempis

IMPRESSIONS FROM ISRAEL’S CONFLICTING REALITIES

by Peter Schulthess

It was my first visit to Israel and I’m looking back to a deeply moving experience. As a preparation for this conference I read a lot of literature about the history of the Jews, the Zionism and the history of Palestine. As I got the message, that the conference will be postponed due to war I thought, that it might be even more important that some of us Europeans will come anyway to visit our Israeli colleagues. The topic of living in conflicting realities was even more actual. I felt that this was the right decision when I saw how many Gestalt colleagues came and how it was possible to even see Jews meeting Arabs in this conflicting time. They told us, that this was the best support that we could give them, to come, listen and witness and give them the opportunity to share the experience of the last months not only with us but also among themselves. I felt like a privileged guest to witness all these talks.

Some fragments: Is this the end of the actual war or just a break? Arabs said that they experienced that they are in the same boat like the Jews: the Hisbollah bombs made no difference and fell on their own houses. There are not only conflicts between Jews and Arabs, but also between different groups of Jews. „There are many unstarted businesses on integration to do, not only unfinished businesses“.

I was deeply impressed by Nella and Ali from the movement of beriefed families. Check the website www.justvision.com. It presents a f movie about this movement of Israeli and Palestianian civilians working for peace. Nella has lost her husband due to the war and Ali’s brother was shot by Israelis. Nella visited the family of Ali to share grief, that’s how the move-

ment of non violence started. They take *Mahatma Ghandi* and *Martin Luther King* as models.

And I was also impressed to meet representants from the community *Neve Shalom*. This is a village where 50% Jews and 50% Arabs live together next house. They deal with cultural and religious differences in a way that proves: coexistence is well possible, if people want it.

As I had some more days to stay, I arranged to visit this village. It was impressing to hear how different the history of the growing state Israel sounded when I spoke with Jewish persons that have been born in Israel and then with Arab persons, also born here. Impressing was also a talk with an old woman who has immigrated 1949 from America and to ask her what she was expecting from coming to Israel and how she feels now about her ideals after having lived here so many years. Ziad showed me his Arab home town close to Tel Aviv with all poverty there, while Tel Aviv is a rich flourishing town. Check the website of Neve Shalom for more informations about Neve Shalom: www.nswas.com.

Unfortunately Ali had to cancel the meeting I did arrange with him in Ramallah the next day – I would have liked to visit also that part of Palestine to get also that perspective. There will be another chance, I hope. Instead of meeting him I got the chance to visit the dead sea and the *Masada National Park*. Masada was an antic castle at the Roman times. It shows a heroic legend of Jewish warriors that opposed to the Romans but at the end were beaten. The day before they got caught they all committed suicide behind the walls of the castle to prevent being killed, tortured or abused by the enemy. All Israeli soldiers still have to visit this place after the military education. The proud heroic message is clear: never to loose war. Be the first that kills even if

You have to kill Yourself. Nobody will ever bring Israelis out of the country anymore. Militarism sets ideology.

Will there ever be peace in this country? What contribution Gestalt could make to support an integrative process to peace? I felt assured that offering situations where people across the cultures can meet as human beings will help to bridge differences. Encounter with shared emotions helps to join people from different cultures. Accepting differences means enriching oneself.

It will be a long and fragile process with progresses and disappointments. Peace will have to grow from bottom up. Political leaders in these countries will not be able to solve conflicts in a stable way. Do not wait for them. From both sides they always get again from radical movements the license to kill and continue the war. What gives me hope is that many people on both sides are getting tired of war and knowing that they will have to accept that they have to integrate and support coexistence. There are to many Jews living in this country and they have a right to stay there as for most of them it's in the mean time the land of birth. And there are to many Arabs there that have been born there and have the right to live there.

This perspective was also a dream of part of the Zionistic movement. *Martin Buber* was one of the activists, wishing a binational state of Jews and Arabs. It's a difficult vision for being realised: In this country are two traumatized people living. You can feel the tension in the air, when you're there. Traumatized people (not only individuals) usually overreact in conflicts what leads to retraumatization. Endless? No – as professionals we know that offering containment and dialogue can give at least some healing.

Back to Europe: EAGT meeting in Krakow which is located next

to Auschwitz and Birkenau. I visited the first time these places. Shocking to be confronted with the witnesses of the holocaust, committed by Nazi-Germans but tolerated by the whole Western world. Impressed by a center that organizes meetings of young people from Germany, Ukraine, Poland and Israel to meet and exchange as a generation after the holocaust. Dealing with prejudices and learning how to solve conflicts based on prejudices seems to me a very important work they do there.

Back in Switzerland:

TV news of horrible attacks of the Israeli army to Palestine civilians. A film about the family of a suicider terrorist, filmed by a Jew who's mother was killed by this terrorist attack: Full of hatred: „all Jews have to die“. But the Palestinian parents must have been impressed by the Israeli who came to meet the family to share grief.

Heavy political discussions in Switzerland: The right wing party wants to forbid building minarets in Switzerland, because they see this as a sign of muslim power that will destroy Christianity and Swiss identity. Some centuries ago the Jews were carriers of such projections. Not even Israelis would forbid the Moslems to build minarets (I had a chance to say this in Television).

Actual political diplomatic signs in Israel and Palestine at the end of november. Is this deescalation process stable or just another break?

Peter Schulthess

News from the Training Standards Committee (TSC)

New accredited training institute: The Instytut Terapii Gestalt from Krakow has been accredited as training institute by EAGT and EAP in september 2006. Congratulations!

All accredited institutes are listed on our homepage on a special site.

I would like to remind all institutes that are full members of EAGT that the timespace for reaccreditation is getting small. There is only another year to go. All institutes that have not asked for accreditation by the end of

november 2007 will lose their full membership in EAGT. Please note and do not wait for the last moment. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the chair of the TSC. All NOGT's (National Organisation for Gestalttherapy) that have not yet sent in their actual documents for reaccreditation as NOGT are kindly requested to do so now. Documents for accreditation as institute or NOGT or other professional organisation are for downloading available at our homepage: www.eagt.org

The TSC has grown: 4 new members have been appointed by the executive board at the meeting in Krakow in september.

All the actual members are: *Pedro de Casso* (Spain), *Gianni Francesetti* (Italy), *Nurith Levy* (Israel), *Fay Page* (UK), *Lidija Pecotic* (Malta), *Peter Schulthess* (Switzerland).

Peter Schulthess

Chair of TSC

Vice President of EAGT

pschulthess@goldnet.ch

Information from the EAGT office

EAGT's treasurer and office manager have been looking for another and easier way how members can pay their membership fees, accreditation fees, re-registration fees or other payments. Many members would like to pay with their credit cards but unfortunately it is a very difficult way to integrate this on our website.

To deal with this according to Dutch bank rules we had to change some things drastic, like moving the registration place of EAGT from Belgium to The Netherlands. The costs involved with this "paper" move were huge and therefore we got discouraged.

Another way to meet with the wishes of our members is to install

PayPal on our website. With PayPal, members can pay their fees with their credit cards.

Together with our webmaster we are working on it to integrate PayPal to our website starting January 1st, 2007.

Marga Berends

Office manager EAGT

EAGT Membership

New members 2006 (full membership):

Birgit Juel, Denmark.

Dan Bloom, U.S.A.

Emilija Stoimenova Canevska, Macedonia.

Altered Memberships 2006 (from Associate membership to Full membership):

Elena Petrova, Russia.

Dafni Filippou, Greece.

Conny van Meer, The Netherlands.

Accredited Training Institutes 2006 *Instytut Terapii Gestalt OK PSPP*, Poland

Associate membership Training Institutes 2006

Daan van Praag Gestaltinstituut, The Netherlands

Instytut Integralnej Psychoterapii Gestalt, Poland

Statute Change

In Krakow the Board suggested to have a statute change, which was unanimously accepted by the members dur-

ing the Annual General Meeting, for retired Gestalt therapists, which follows below:

To enable Gestalt therapists who have retired from practice, but wish to remain a part of the Gestalt community in Europe, to be Associate Members EAGT would like to have a statute change. Proposed is to add under item Associate Members the following:

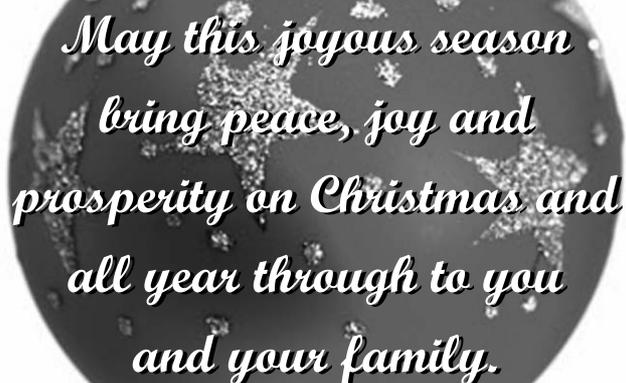
Retired Gestalt Practitioners.

Nieuw Buinen,

November 15th, 2006

Marga Berends

Season's greetings
from EAGT....



*May this joyous season
bring peace, joy and
prosperity on Christmas and
all year through to you
and your family.*

FROM "THE TE OF PIGLET"

(by Benjamin Hoff)

Let's find a Way
Today
That can take us to tomorrow -
Follow that Way,
A Way like flowing water.

Let's leave
Behind
The things that do not matter,
And turn
Our lives
To a more important chapter

Let's take the time,
Let's try to find
What real life has to offer.
And maybe then
We'll find again
What we had long forgotten.
Like a friend,
True 'til the end,
It will help us onward

The sun is high,
The road is wide,
And it starts where we are stand-
ing.
No one knows
How far it goes,
For the road is never-ending.

It goes
Away
Beyond what we have thought of;
It flows
Away, away like flowing water

I wish you all
blessed Christmas days
and a prosperous
New Year,

Bas Lokerse, treasurer