



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Keynote Speaker: Erving Polster

Come to beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, beside the Pacific Ocean on the campus of the University of British Columbia, and join an international community of Gestalt practitioners in the eighth international conference for Gestalt therapy of the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy. We will have colleagues present from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Bermuda, the USA, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Russia, India, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, and Israel. They will provide pre-conference workshops and marathon groups, within-conference demonstrations, didactic and experiential presentations, symposia, and panels based on formal papers, active research, theory and clinical practice. The keynote address will be given by Erving Polster, Ph.D. Peruse the following schedule and workshop descriptions, and then consult the aagt website for registration information:

www.aagt.org

- Monday,
August 7, 6:30 pm
until
Wednesday,
August 9, 5 pm
Off Campus
- Gestalt Group Process Residential** **Peter Cole & Daisy Reese**
The Sierra Institute for Contemporary Gestalt Therapy offers an annual summer intensive. The summer intensive is one of the requirements for a certification of completion of the training. The summer intensive is an experience of Gestalt Group Work. Usually the institute offers a five-day intensive. This year, in conjunction with AAGT's Vancouver conference, we plan to offer our trainees and others a two-day intensive, and have them attend the conference to meet the intensive requirement. There will be room for about six additional participants besides Sierra Institute Trainees.
- Tuesday,
August 8,
9 am - 9 pm
Room 211
- Gestalt Group Marathon** **Ansel Woldt & Tom Mraz**
A 12-hour small group experience limited to 12 people, facilitated to explore personal and interpersonal processes. The basic content of the workshop is the participants themselves. Gestalt encounter emphasizes awareness, authenticity, spontaneity and contact, without a fixed agenda. The group develops a here and now, process-oriented experience. Participants often report gaining greater awareness and understanding of their own behaviors, plans, hopes and dreams. Many utilize the group as a safe place for experimenting with new behavior, working through unfinished situations in their life and obtaining closure of unfinished gestalts. The facilitators have several years experience in group work, dating back to the '60s and '70s.
- Wednesday,
August 9,
9 am - 7:30 pm
Room 212A
- Deepening Connections** **Brian & Jenny O'Neill**
Brian and Jenny will bring their work and lived experience both as a couple and as trainers of Gestalt therapists to this workshop. They will offer a focus on the paradoxical nature of intimacy and connection in relationships. Gestalt encounter emphasizes awareness, authenticity, spontaneity and contact, without a fixed agenda. Participants will engage in a marathon group experience in which they can utilize the group as a safe place for experimenting with new behavior, working through unfinished situations in their life and obtaining closure. Brian and Jenny have been facilitating groups for over two decades in Australia.
- Wednesday,
August 9,
9 am - 7:30 pm
Room 211
- Strangers on the Shore - A Therapy Marathon** **Sharon Warwick & Rob Tyson**
For all of us, coming to the AAGT Conference in Vancouver will mean entering into new field conditions, which will include meeting new people. Dreaming the Future is projection. We want to provide a forum in which to explore current projections in the context of new and foreign ground. We hope this will support the emergence of a richer community and lay the ground for our co-created experience of the conference. To do this we are offering the opportunity to participate in a gestalt marathon group, using a blend of classical and relational gestalt, as a precursor to the conference.
- Wednesday,
August 9,
9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Room 205
- A Day for Dreaming** **Dolores Bate**
Fritz Perls regarded dreams as the Royal Road to Integration. I've found this to be true. Dreams offer new information and guidance about the present, past and future as well as insight into our place in the world and our spiritual lives. If you're interested in starting a Dream Group for clients, or for yourself and your friends, this workshop is for you. We'll learn how to begin and to continue our Dream Work in a simple, effective form. If time allows, we'll look at more traditional Gestalt approaches to working with dreams, as well.
- Wednesday,
August 9,
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Room 216
- Resolving Unfinished Religious Business and Other 'God Stuff'** **Philip Brownell**
This will be an exploration for people interested in making progress with unresolved religious issues, processing abusive religious experiences, exploring nagging questions associated with a theistic worldview, and/or gaining cultural competence for working with religious clients. It will lay a ground for theism in Gestalt therapy and then provide opportunities for group members to respond. God will not be left out and talked about; God will be brought in and addressed. Since religious difference often stimulates the defense of belief structures, tolerance of uncertainty in the role of faith will also be considered.
- Wednesday,
August 9,
2 - 6 pm
Room 216
- Adaptation, Internal Criticism, and Psychological Withdrawal - Psychotherapy of the Schizoid Process** **Richard Erskine**
This workshop combines didactic material and experiential demonstration work. It presents a continuing development of thinking about the schizoid process that grew out of a collaborative endeavor with Gary Yontef and Lynne Jacobs several years ago. The manner in which ways of thinking and acting that occur in everyday life are manifested in more extreme form in Schizoid behavior are explored, and approaches to treating such behavior is presented.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2006

CONFERENCE OPENING

- 12 - 1 pm
Party Room **AAGT Board Meeting #1**
- 4 - 10 pm
Party Room **Conference Registration**
- 4 - 6 pm
Room 205 **Process Group Leaders Orientation**
 Jack Aylward
- 4 - 6 pm
Party Room **Newcomers Orientation to the AAGT** If you're a "newbie", come, have fun and meet others new to AAGT
 Facilitators: **Nancy & Ansel Woldt** and **Ann & Charlie Bowman**
- 8 - 9:15 pm **Process Group Session #1**
- 9:30 - 11 pm
Cecil Green Center **Reception**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2006

- 6:30 - 8:30 am
Party Room &
Courtyard **Breakfast Buffet**
- 7 - 8 am
Room 214-216 **Morning Activity: Meditation for Early Risers**
- 7:30 - 12:30 pm
Party Room **Registration**

OPENING PLENARY

- 9 - 10:50 am
Ballroom **Welcome to Vancouver and the University of British Columbia**
 Conference Coordinators: **Bea Mackay & Warren Weir**
- Saying Hello to Each Other**
 Marilyn Myles
- Presidential Address**
 AAGT President: **Brian O'Neill**, introduced by **Sharon Warwick**
- Keynote Speech**
 A Giant Next Step for Psychotherapy
 Erving Polster, introduced by **Eva Gold**
Historically, psychotherapists have worked with individuals, small groups, large groups, organizations and, even, governments. We have moved from treating pathology to facilitating personal growth to expanding public consciousness. A next step is to offer life-long psychological guidance to congregations of people. With religion as precedent and psychotherapy's large group processes as instrument, Dr. Polster will show how we may continually address everyday, non-pathological needs of people, describing these procedures and their theoretical underpinnings. Especially pertinent is psychotherapy's methods for joining its discoveries of the fundamental requirements of "just living" with its inspiration to be "noticeably alive."
- 11 am Thursday
until 5 pm Saturday
Room 201A -
ext. Ballroom **Exhibitors' Displays & Sales**

**all workshops
11 am - 12:50 pm**

Ballroom

Relational Gestalt Therapy: What It Is, What It Isn't, and So What?

Gary Yontef

In this lecture/discussion/demonstration we will discuss the relational nature of Gestalt Therapy and the practice implications. We will differentiate the relational perspective as an observational stance and as a practice ethic. We will talk about the implications for practice of a relational practice ethic. Topics will include conceptions of phenomenology, field theory, and dialogue, and my viewpoint of relational practice. During the second hour I plan to demonstrate by doing experiential work with volunteers from the audience.

Room 205

Clarifying Gestalt's Language of Experience: Awareness and Consciousness **Daniel J. Bloom**

Gestalt therapy's concepts of "awareness" and "consciousness" have been used confusingly and interchangeably. Gestalt therapy is a phenomenological psychotherapy with a serious metatheory and can be expected to use ideas in a clear, consistent manner. This workshop will begin to clarify these terms, showing they are differently intrinsic to contacting and self-functioning. Awareness and consciousness are intransitive and transitive experiences - correlative in a figure/ground relationship. Both are contact-boundary functions enabling intersubjectivity. They express the phenomenological concept of intentionality. This didactic/experiential workshop will raise questions, provide the outline for further exploration, but not reach a conclusion.

Room 207

Learning From the Experience of Childhood: The Oaklander Approach

Peter Mortola

Aspects and implications of Violet Oaklander's experiential approach to training adults to work with children will be explored, analyzed, and discussed. Participants will leave with an enriched appreciation of the ways in which both a cognitive and an experiential understanding of the phenomenology of childhood is key to working therapeutically with children, the ways in which these cognitive and experiential understandings of childhood lead directly to practical approaches in the moment-to-moment process, and the ways in which an appreciation for the phenomenology of childhood can expand our sometimes limited sensibilities and levels of consciousness as adult therapists.

Room 209

Daring to Be Me - Women and Resilience

Marion Schirling

Throughout their lives, most women experience, apart from moments of joy, many situations of hardship - the loss of a loved one, a serious illness, a traumatic event, burn-out or relationship problems. Some women seem to be able to cope more effectively with these stressful events of life than others. The question arises: "What are their helpful resources of resilience that enable them to do so?" This workshop is intended to encourage women to discover these significant factors, strategies and personal skills for building resilience.

Room 211

Working With Forgiveness in Gestalt Therapy

Ed Harris

Much has been written about forgiveness as a way to overcome hurt and anger from violation and betrayal. However, victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, divorce or other personal tragedies are often quite conflicted about forgiveness. This presentation will first conceptualize forgiveness in Gestalt Therapy terms. We'll then examine the client and therapist issues involved in forgiveness work, when and how to introduce forgiveness, how to draw on the client's religious/spiritual background, and how to utilize some innovative Gestalt experiments such as meditation, prayer, and the creation of healing rituals in working with forgiveness in therapy.

Room 212A

Optimism: How to See a System and Make Interventions that Stick

Joseph Melnick

In this workshop optimism will be defined and linked to Gestalt theory and culture. Data will be presented as to how optimistic and pessimistic perspectives impact our therapeutic and consulting stances in terms of how we observe, assess and intervene. Last, a model for how to make interventions "stick" and have impact will be articulated. The workshop will be a combination of lecture and experiential exercises.

Room 214-216

'The Street' - A New Approach to Group Therapy

Sharon Warwick & John Harris

The workshop will introduce participants to a model of group work in general and therapy in particular which Peter Philippon and John Bernard Harris have developed in Manchester. The origins of 'the Street' will be presented, followed by a basic outline of the new paradigm for group work, which it exemplifies. We will then run a Street (experiential exercise) followed by a review. If time permits, we will then demonstrate the Street model as applied to an ad hoc therapeutic group convened in the workshop, followed by a final discussion.

12:50 - 1:50 pm
Party Room &
Courtyard

Box Lunch

1 - 1:50 pm
Room 211

Institutional Members' Meeting (bring your box lunch)

1:10 - 1:50 am
Room 214-216

Gestalt Therapy 101: Elements, Methods, & Styles of Work

Victor Daniels

(bring your box lunch)

This presentation offers a "users guide" to the conference by exploring the territory of Gestalt Therapy's past and present. It begins with the triad of theory, attitude, and method. Then it describes how all approaches to Gestalt therapy are similar and how they are different. It looks at how Gestalt theory is applied in conversational, empty-chair, enactive, psychodramatic, somatic, and group-based approaches, and discusses the ways these overlap. One training exercise and one innovation in therapeutic method are included. Online and hardcopy resources for further learning are identified. (Best for Beginning and Intermediate Level).

SECOND ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

2 - 2:55 pm
Ballroom

Conversation Hour with Richard Kitzler

interviewed by **Jon Frew**

Richard Kitzler was part of the original training group in New York who met with Fritz and Laura Perls, and he has been an influential member of the New York Institute ever since. Jon Frew is a clinical psychologist, trained through the Cleveland Institute, who practices in Vancouver, Washington and teaches at Pacific University.

3:05 - 4 pm
Ballroom

Conversation Hour with Anne MacLean

interviewed by **Seán Gaffney**

Anne Maclean is a founding editor of the *Gestalt Journal of Australia and New Zealand*, author of *The Heart of Supervision*, and co-editor of *Grounds for Gestalt* and *More Grounds for Gestalt*, both volumes published "down under." She has been training and supervising people in New Zealand for many years. Seán Gaffney is an organizational consultant and Gestalt trainer who resides in Sweden but who teaches and works internationally through the Gestalt International Study Center, among other organizations.

all workshops
2 - 4 pm

Gestalt Approach to Treating Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Linda Curran

Room 205

This workshop is a multimedia presentation including; film clips, accurately portraying childhood sexual trauma and its physiological and psychological sequelae; a short history of Freud's Aetiology of Hysteria, his retraction, and his legacy; and a visually compelling display of clients' artwork. Cognizant of disturbing nature of the material, the facilitator will call attention to participants' internal experience throughout and demonstrate techniques for grounding, centering, and self-soothing. Those techniques- guided visualization, accupoints (meridian) tapping sequences, and Shen poses- will be explained and participants will leave with the ability to incorporate them into their clinical practice.

Room 207-209

Mirror Neurons, Intersubjectivity, and Groupwork

Peter Philippon

The discovery of mirror neurons, neurons that sit beside motor neurons and fire both when I act or if I am in contact with someone else acting, has opened up a whole new area of knowledge and speculation about how human beings relate. These ideas strongly support the Gestalt theory of relational self. My intention in this workshop is to present my understanding of the implications of this for the theory and practice of Gestalt group therapy, by means of theoretical input, experiential group work and discussion. I will include a 'new paradigm' theory of groups, which I co-developed.

Room 211

Gestalt Therapy & Buddhist Psychology

Eva Gold

Vipassana or Insight meditation is a central Buddhist teaching. At the heart of this teaching is mindfulness. Like Gestalt therapy, mindfulness involves cultivating awareness-experiencing what is, as it unfolds, in the present moment. In this workshop I will outline major Buddhist psychology concepts, and particular meditation methods, and relate these to Gestalt therapy theory and practice. Guided meditations will provide an experience of these methods for participants. This will create the ground for further discussion about the ways Gestalt therapists can benefit from these teachings, for our own personal and spiritual growth, and in our work.

SECOND ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

**all workshops
2 - 4 pm**

Undoing Social Oppression in Therapy: What Gestalt Has to Offer

Lisa Houston

Room 212A

Globalization has produced rapidly changing demographics for populations worldwide. These changes bring challenges and opportunities for those engaged in cross-cultural work. Gestalt therapy offers a grounded and timely perspective for working with non-majority culture persons, yet little research exists for empirically validating the richness of the Gestalt approach. This workshop will present results from a research study applying Gestalt therapy with adult Latinos/as in the Southwestern United States. The need for more research into Gestalt therapy and diverse populations will be proposed. Open discussion will be solicited, exploring what Gestalt therapy has to offer to the Multicultural Competence Movement.

A Dramatic Approach to Gestalt Dreamwork

Sylvia Fleming Crocker

Room 214-216

This presentation will demonstrate a Gestalt version of Psychodrama, with a focus on dreamwork. Here the dreamer chooses group members to play roles in the dream but--unlike Psychodrama in which these persons attempt to improvise their roles--the dreamer reverses roles with each of them as the dreamwork unfolds. Thus all of the psychological material comes only from the dreamer. This is especially powerful in working with recurrent dreams that repeatedly prompt the dreamer to address some important existential issue that has remained unresolved and unassimilated.

4:15 - 6:15 pm
Ballroom

Community Meeting #1

6:30 - 8:30 pm
Tennis Club

AAGT Board & Conference Planners

6:30 - 7:45 pm

Dinner (on your own)

THIRD ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

**all workshops
8 - 9:45 pm**

Embodying the Future - Gestalt, Neuroscience, and Sexuality

Stella Resnick

Ballroom

This workshop explores a body-based Gestalt approach emphasizing personal growth through relationship and sexual self-discovery. It integrates Gestalt theory, developmental neuroscience, and recent findings in sexology to offer a coherent system for expanding our therapeutic sphere of effectiveness. A core aspect of "embodied therapy" is the significance of non-verbal, subtle shifts in body tension, sensation, breathing patterns, movements and gestures. We will begin by examining some of the recent evidence in the psychoneurobiology of attachment and neuroimaging science (fMRI) that support basic Gestalt principles and methods. We will proceed to experiment with several key processes for honing "felt sense" observations.

Gestalt Dreamwork as Alchemy, Prophecy, and Theater

Franklyn Wepner

Room 205

When Gestaltists speak of "dreaming the future," the future is "the coming solution," which is Aristotle's "final cause" drawing forward as an object of love and desire. I will discuss analogies between Fritz's psychology and Aristotle's philosophy as these relate to the alchemical theories of Paracelsus, the theory of prophecy put forth by Maimonides in his "Guide For The Perplexed", and the aesthetics of Artaud's "alchemical theater" as presented in his "The Theater And Its Double". I will describe my own work since 1975, directing Merkavah Jewish Theater, work that has been based on this expanded view of Gestalt dreamwork.

Making the Invisible Visible - Videotaping Treatment with Couples

Susan Friedberg

Room 209

This presentation will combine theory and practical illustration with the purpose of demonstrating the use of Videotaping as a tool in couple's treatment. We will discuss family dynamics from a Gestalt perspective, using the concepts of creative adjusting, contacting and its interruptions, and family systems concepts of redundancy and pattern repetition, feedback loops, and mutual organizing of experience. Similarities and differences between the two perspectives will be made obvious. Following the didactic portion, the presenter will show a videotape of couples' interactions and discuss how this tool can be used within therapy to heighten awareness.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2006

THIRD ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

all workshops
8 - 9:45 pm

Two-chair Technique as a Hypnotic Phenomenon

Ghaemmagaham Farahani

Disclosure of inner conflicts directly relates to processes of the conscious and unconscious mind within space and time. Memory, imagination, need, and desire become active through the unconscious mind. The logical portion of mind in two-chair technique is not involved except at the initiation of dialogue. The inner self mostly involves and operates within unconscious mind, while the outer self operates within the logical portion of mind in awareness. This presentation will provide opportunity for individuals and the group to experiment and recognize the hypnotic phenomena in two-chair technique within their experiences. Participants will also learn about self-hypnosis.

Room 211

Spirituality of the Ordinary: The Quiet Warrior

Patricia Wehr,
Siobhán Conway-Hicks, Maryanne Nichols

We intend to lead a group exploration of the theme of ordinary spirituality. We are working with a celebration of the every-day, of 'mundane' tasks, and truly bringing life to the commonplace. We are affected by the meaning of virtue. Virtue means 'to cut well,' as in a knife has virtue if it cuts well. So, we are looking for those mundane authenticities that can be done with excellence if connected to excitement. Inspired by the work on spirituality by Buber and Rosner, we develop a sense of the liveliness in the everyday through didactic, experiment, and discussion.

Room 212A

A Gestalt Therapist Teaches Singing

Susan Gregory

You are invited to bring questions you always wanted to ask about Voice to this experiential and didactic workshop. Together, we will explore boundaries between breathing and phonation, between sound making and words, between speaking and singing. We'll investigate how these reflect in our relational styles. Have you wondered about carrying a tune? singing in front of an audience? feeling at ease as a listener/observer? singing higher-lower-louder-softer-freer? Here is a chance for Voice/Self exploration. Experienced singers, neophytes, listener/observers are all welcome.

Room 216

10 pm - onward
Wolf & Hound

Irish Interest Group (IIG Gathering and Inductions)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2006

Breakfast Buffet

6:30 - 8:30 am
Party Room &
Courtyard

Morning Activity: Tai Chi for Early Risers

7 - 8 am
Room 214-216

Overview of the Day: Ann Bowman, Secretary

8:15 - 8:25 am
Room 207-209

FOURTH ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

Dimensions of Relational Methods of Gestalt Therapy

Richard Erskine

This workshop will describe the contact-oriented, relationship-focused methods of Gestalt Therapy. A gentle, respectful inquiry into the client's experiences provides both client and therapist with an ever-increasing awareness. Attunement includes the therapist's sensing the client's affect, natural rhythms, developmental level of functioning, and relational-needs, expressing corresponding affect and resonating behavior. Involvement reflects the client's experience that the therapist is committed to his/her welfare. It includes sensitivity to and acknowledgement of intrapsychic functions and feelings, validation and normalization of the client's sense of integrity and style of coping, and the presence of the therapist through his/her responsibility, dependability, and reliability.

all workshops
8:30 - 10:20 am

Ballroom

**all workshops
8:30 - 10:20 am**

Gestalt Therapy - Awareness, Consciousness and Interpretation

Perry Klepner

Room 205

Awareness, consciousness and interpretation have been essential factors in gestalt therapy and psychoanalytic approaches. They dynamically relate to influence how psychotherapy is understood and progresses. However, their meaning and use have varied. In gestalt therapy awareness was an innovation which, along with contact, experiment, and field, allowed new dynamic therapeutic interactions, supporting spontaneity, authenticity, depth and meaning of experience and, most importantly, new experience. Experiential and didactic segments will clarify and discuss these terms, make understandable their dynamic roles in gestalt therapy, and point to their varying importance and application in the contemporary psychoanalytic field.

Religion & Prejudice - Expanding Cultural Consciousness

Phillip Brownell,

Room 207-209

Talia Levine Bar Yoseph, Nahida Hadeesh

The presence of difference is at the core of dialogue. It is also at the core of prejudice. A Gestalt therapy approach, however, makes no broad and categorical assumptions about people; rather, Gestalt therapists engage in a dialogue that allows the unique differences between individuals to emerge within specific intersubjective fields. This workshop utilizes the assumptions surrounding fundamentalist religion to explore the dynamics of dialogue in order to help therapists work with people of challenging differences. Join a Circassian Moslem, an Israeli Jew, and an Evangelical Christian as they explore this territory through narrative, didactic, and experiential means.

Yoga is Indian, Gestalt German - Will They Marry or Live Together?

Kailash Tuli

Room 211

This presentation, both in theory and demonstrations, is intended to address the basic issue of a mirror reflection between Yogic and Gestalt psychotherapy. It appears to be an unfortunate coincidence that Fritz and Laura Perls did not notice Yoga when Eastern thoughts like Zen entered the Gestalt bibliography. The presentation shows how Yoga might positively influence the practice of Gestalt therapy. Further, since psychotherapy has potential to influence beyond the clinic to one's style of life, Yoga offers more than mere physical regimen; it is an influence on style of life and philosophy.

Families of the Future - Stepfamilies

Claire Asherson Bartram

Room 212A

Stepfamilies are the fastest growing family form in America and the UK; they provide a different setting from families where children and adults are biologically related. Gestalt has a lot to offer in working with stepfamily members, particularly through exploring dialogically different and challenging positions. The workshop will explore stepfamily issues experientially through recreating a stepfamily based on either personal or client material brought by a group member. This will evoke an awareness of pertinent dynamics into the group awareness bringing the possibility of experimentation and insight. There will be time for discussion and to process the issues that arise.

**Charting Your Midlife Voyage,
Re-Envisioning Your Possibilities**

**Allan Singer &
Marilyn Myles**

Room 214-216

Our mid-life passage presents an opportunity both to reflect on our accumulative life experience and to consider how we might direct ourselves anew in creating a vitally nourishing journey. This experiential workshop will offer participants a supportive forum in which to value our strengths and appreciate our life learnings, as we continue to cultivate the grounds of our personal visions of possibility. Through guided imagery and group dialogue exercises, we shall envision ourselves in taking interesting next steps towards expanding our fullness in this life path.

10:30 - 11:55 am

Process Groups, Session 2

12 - 12:50 pm
Party Room &
Courtyard

Box Lunch

12 - 12:55 pm
Room 212A

Board Meeting 2 (bring your box lunch)

1 - 1:55 pm Ballroom	<p>Metaphor as Field Carl Hodges</p> <p>Gestalt field theory takes seriously the notion of group as figure/ground, wholes/parts, process/events, gestalt formation/destruction. Much of what occurs in the group/field is non-verbal, pre-verbal, and a-verbal. While pedestrian language cannot catch the field, metaphor can. At its simplest, metaphor is a portal for proceeding from the known to the unknown and back again. It is a transfer of meaning, a bridge, a way to make contact by "carrying across." Existential and experiential, it gives us a different map of the field/group/self than simple descriptive statements provide. We shall use our Process Groups as support for this rich journey.</p>
2:05 - 3 pm Ballroom	<p>Culture Change via Conversation with People Differing Politically Philip Lichtenberg</p> <p>There are challenges in applying Gestalt Therapy in everyday conversations with family and friends. My aim is to promote democratic and egalitarian relations in an increasingly authoritarian society. Conceiving the leadership of society as reflective of the culture of that society, and the culture as importantly embodied in daily discourse, I look at how Gestalt Therapists can apply our orientation so as to change the "common sense" of our culture. The focus will be predominantly directed to how we talk politics and religion, a diminished art in the modern world.</p>
all workshops 1 - 3 pm Room 205	<p>Metaphorical/Sensory Experiments for Gestalt Groups Niela Miller</p> <p>This session presents varied ways of working with sensory/metaphorical processes in Gestalt-oriented groups. We involve participants in experiments, which mine potential insights below the level of awareness. We take into account the transformative nature of whole brain/body participation and how change and awareness can occur which produce heightened consciousness, new possibilities and fresh perspectives. The workshop will be largely experiential and consists of a series of short exercises focused on creating the future (our own, our groups, our world) using different media such as drawing, movement, writing and sound for discovery learning, followed by practice and discussion.</p>
Room 207-209	<p>Gods & Monsters, A Two-Chair Approach to Dream Symbols Bea Mackay & Warren Weir</p> <p>The Gestalt Two-Chair technique is a productive way of working with dreams and dream symbols. Dreams convey the unconscious dynamics that clients are struggling with, bringing to the foreground current splits and polarities. Often it is more productive and effective to work with the symbols and the interaction in the dreams rather than talking about the issues. This workshop teaches therapists how to use the Gestalt Two-Chair with dream symbols. It deals with the types of splits that evolve out of the work and how to shift and change with the different splits as they come to the foreground.</p>
Room 211	<p>Practice Meets Theory: Revealing the Magic of Gestalt Patricia J. Tucker</p> <p>Talk of Gestalt theory is often rich and nuanced, but these discussions seem abstract, far from actual therapy. Watching Gestalt sessions, we are often filled with a sense of awe, but by simply staying with the mystery of the co-created moments, we lose a deeper theoretical understanding. In this workshop, we bring together practice and theory with live demonstrations followed by focused yet flexible discussions on areas such as relationship between therapist and client, contact and interruption, and creative adjusting. The workshop leader will also encourage discussion to take shape on its own, its direction formed by the participants.</p>
Room 212A	<p>Moving Out of the Power Game Tine Van Wijk</p> <p>We will explore the three positions in the power triangle we usually operate from: omnipotence - impotence - power struggle. By identifying with different characters in a story that will be told, we will discover how we go from playing the savior to being a victim and the persecutor. With the support of the Gestalt Layer theory we will find out that we need the struggle for power to surpass our roles and make contact by becoming responsible for the needs behind our roles. If things go as expected, participants will experience their strength, autonomy, and leadership.</p>
Room 214-216	<p>Demonstration of Radically Phenomenological Couples Therapy Stephen Zahm & Eva Gold</p> <p>One presenter (Steve) will work with a couple, demonstrating this approach, which is radically phenomenological, and field theoretical. Prior to the demonstration, we will outline the concepts of ego analytic couples therapy, and discuss their integration into a Gestalt approach. These concepts are not "add-ons," but offer a fuller articulation, and clinical application, of aspects of Gestalt therapy theory in work with couples. After the demonstration, there will be time for participants to ask questions and engage in discussion of the work with presenters and the demonstration couple.</p>

**all workshops
3:10 - 5 pm**

Ballroom

The Star Trek Model of Couple and Parental Counseling

Ann Teachworth

For too long the basis for couple or parenting counseling has been the belief that a couple's relationship problems stem from the client's unfinished business with one of their parents in childhood. Anne's Psychogenetic approach demonstrates how the problem most often hides within the parents' troubled relationship - introjected into the client during childhood. Using a ten-question family of origin inquiry, Anne will demonstrate a simple role-playing exercise that boldly takes one's parents' relationship further than they were able to go on their own and produces a healing change in the current clients' introjected inner-couple patterns.

Room 205

Developing Intersubjectivity: Infant Behavior and Adult Treatment

Ruella Frank

The relationship between intersubjectivity in the field of contemporary infant research and Gestalt therapy theory and clinical practice is discussed. Emerging intersubjective process within the client/therapist field—an implicit knowing of “other” that relies on identification, differentiation—is described from its roots within the infant caregiver dyad. It will become clear how in either dyad, infant or adult, affective/movement patterns that arise through non-verbal dialogue create a here-and-now choreographic, kinetic text which reveals clear and relevant information about each forming relationship. A basic system of nonverbal analysis will be presented to enhance therapists' ability to Gestalt diagnose the relational field.

Room 207-209

Recounting Fritz' Final Dream - A Gestalt Kibbutz at Lake Cowichan

Jack Neggerman

Fritz Perls came to the environs of Vancouver to create a Gestalt Therapeutic Community. We will recognize and honor Fritz in his final venture and refresh our recollections of his transition from Esalen to Lake Cowichan by reviewing the perceptions of those he encountered in his twilight years. We will review how the founder has impacted attendees and sort out which of his concepts and methods still seem vital and what aspects of Fritz you have discarded. We will end by addressing your own dreams for yourself in the future of Gestalt Therapy. Didactic, Historical, Lake Cowichan film.

Room 211

Shrinking Distances - It Can Be a Smaller World After All

Lester Wyman & Arie Cohen

We provide real-time, distance learning Gestalt training activities via Internet voice chatting technology to trainees and training faculties. We intend to provide participants the opportunities to learn some Gestalt practice theory through this technology. We intend to do the above by using this technology to provide a live session in which I teach a model of Gestalt practice. Our future will be in an ever-shrinking world. This presentation will demonstrate the possibilities of an inexpensive way to “share the wealth” of knowledge and skills among us by bringing together trainers and trainees who are otherwise never likely to meet.

Room 212A

The Communicube - A New Method of Working

John Harris

John Harris, gestalt psychotherapist, will present the film, "The Communicube", to introduce The Five Story Self Structure: a new way of working which gestaltists, psychosynthesists, drama therapists, TA therapists, psychodramatists and counsellors are using with individuals, couples, families, groups and organisations. The method enables client and therapist to model complex, multi-layered, even chaotic material and make sense of this complexity. The Communicube is a transparent five level structure that was invented by Dr. John Casson during research with people who hear voices but has been found to have much wider applications. It is a 21st Century Communication Tool.

3:10 - 4 pm
Room 214-216

Conversation Hour with Judith Brown

interviewed by **Ansel Woldt**

Judith Brown, a former lecturer and researcher at the University of California, Santa Barbara, has conducted 135 psychotherapy workshops in the U.S. and Canada, 262 training workshops in the USA, Canada, England, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Holland and Russia, 51 workshops for couples and couples' therapists in the US and abroad, and 42 workshops for management and organizational development. Ansel Woldt is professor emeritus at Kent State University and the AAGT archivist.

4:10 - 5 pm
Room 214-216

Conversation Hour with Erving Polster

interviewed by **Eva Gold**

Erving Polster is the Director of the Gestalt Training Center, San Diego, Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of California at San Diego, and the author of numerous books, articles, and chapters of books. He is in demand as a training and workshop leader, and his clinical experience extends to the middle of the last century! Eva Gold is Co-Director of the Gestalt Therapy Training Center-Northwest, a licensed psychologist in practice since 1988, and an adjunct professor at Pacific University School of Professional Psychology.

- 5:30 - 6:30 pm **Transportation to Harbor Cruise**
- 6:30-10:30 pm **Harbor Cruise with Buffet Dinner** (costs extra, but worth it)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006

- 6:30 - 8:30 am
Party Room & Courtyard **Buffet Breakfast**
- 7 - 8:20 am
Room 211 **Morning Activity: Yoga**
- 7:30 - 8:20 am
Room 205 **Supervision Discussion with Anne Maclean and Ansel Woldt** (bring your breakfast)
- 8:15 - 8:25 am
Room 207-209 **Overview of the Day: Peter Cole, Treasurer**

SEVENTH ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

- all workshops**
8:30 - 10:20 am
- Ballroom **Monkeys, Players, & Clairvoyants - A Gestalt Concept of Empathy** **Frank Staemmler**
"There can be no true contact in empathy. At its worst it becomes confluence," Fritz Perls rigorously said. However, in my view empathy cannot be relegated from gestalt therapeutic practice. Therefore it appears to be useful to think about a gestalt therapeutic understanding of empathy. I will offer some ideas about a notion of empathy that I think are in keeping with more recent trends in gestalt therapy (e.g. dialogue and field theory). I will also draw on sources such as phenomenology, gestalt psychology, hermeneutics, baby research, neurosciences, parapsychology, and others.
- Room 205 **Professional Issues for Therapists Working with Detainees** **Jay Levin**
The plight of detainees is dire. They usually have no access to reasonable health care, oversight, or legal process. They are often hidden from public scrutiny and are offered no protection under the most basic laws of civilized society. This presentation falls within the area of "social justice" and explores some of the ethical, clinical and professional issues confronting the mental health worker who is called on to be responsible for the treatment and wellbeing of detainees. It will be partly didactic and partly discussion, and I intend to use PowerPoint to illustrate some aspects of the presentation.
- Room 207-209 **The Spirit of Gestalt - Spirituality, Gestalt, Self & Relationship** **Lynn Williams**
Fritz Perls has said spirituality is: "neither shitting or getting off the pot". Michael Murphy calls Perls a "cryptomystic" who had significant spiritual experiences (although he himself did not label them as such) and "at times enjoyed moments of extraordinary illumination". This experiential workshop will explore our extraordinary moments and how spirituality can manifest in our lives through a Gestalt approach. We will explore how basic Gestalt principles such as awareness, embodiment, relation and co-creation can facilitate these experiences. Activities will encourage exploration and integration of spirituality using mind, body, heart and soul both individually and in a relational context.
- Room 211 **Gestalt Image Therapy** **Seishi Harada**
Gestalt Image Therapy is an attempt to apply gestalt dream technique to phenomenology using a metaphor. Participants will first portray a problem metaphorically, for example, calling it a "morass." Then, we will talk about the "morass" in detail. Next, participants will describe themselves as if they were the "morass." Since imagery belongs to middle, we will discuss the difficulties involved with portrayal. Participants will be encouraged to explore hidden factors in the process. We will conclude by making observations of the practical utility of imagery



SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006

SEVENTH ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

**all workshops
8:30 - 10:20 am**

Expanding Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Using Gestalt Therapy

Philip Brownell

This workshop briefly describes adolescent sex offenders and summarizes effective practices that have been used in their treatment. It demonstrates how the coherent theory behind contemporary Gestalt therapy harmonizes with those treatment interventions. Participants interested in expanding their practice to include working with this challenging but interesting population will be given an introduction to the field, standards of practice, and necessary competencies so as to extend their practice of Gestalt therapy on the one hand and the field of sex offender treatment on the other.

Room 212A

What IS - Demonstration Work

Judith Brown

My focus will be "what is:" what is actual in the moment. For me this basic Gestalt methodology of attention to the ever changing now moment is the key to process, allowing the emergence of a series of fresh moments leading to...? Since the paradoxical nature of change requires both therapist and client to let go of desires for specific outcomes, this is a process of discovery. With the participation of volunteer clients I plan to demonstrate examples of what is possible in the pursuit of wholeness and integration when we engage totally with what is.

Room 214-216

10:30 - 12 pm

Process Groups, Session 3

12 - 12:50 pm
Party Room &
Courtyard

Box Lunch

12 - 12:50 pm
Room 212A

Regional Representatives Meeting (bring your box lunch)

EIGHTH ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

**all workshops
1 - 2:50 pm**

The Intimacy of Being Woman

Ann Bowman, Judy Graham, & Gail Feinstein

This workshop focuses on how womanhood is relevant in our work as Gestalt therapists, what women have to offer the wider Gestalt community and the impact of the feminine on the field. We will challenge our beliefs and feelings about what is beautiful, female and correct; explore our interruptions of contacting to what is unique to being a woman (body, mind, spirit). We will seek to discover what field experience supports and what inhibits women's authenticity. How do we hide? How do we dream? Our women-only experiment is part of a process towards full contact in the AAGT field/community.

Ballroom

Dance What You Write, Write What You Dance

Tine Van Wijk

By letting our imagination stream we can literally dream our future and give it form by using the process that follows the content. After a guided meditation, we will write what comes to mind by letting our hands do the work. Either in pairs or in group we will read out loud what we wrote while our bodies start moving and dance to the words. When the dance is done, we will go back to our papers and continue writing. We will complete the workshop by discovering if this creative process has given a new meaning to our future.

Room 205

Symposium on Gestalt Social Theory

**Victor Daniels, Sylvia Fleming Crocker,
Seán Gaffney, Talia Levine Bar Yoseph**

We will apply Gestalt Therapy and Kurt Lewin's Field Theory to the "therapy" and evolution of social units from families & communities to cultures. Seán Gaffney will examine effects of Gestalt training and organizational consulting in Northern Ireland. Talia Levine Bar Yoseph will apply insights from living in diverse cultures to her experience as a therapist and consultant. Sylvia Fleming Crocker will examine values inherent in a Gestalt approach relevant to specific situations in actual societies. Victor Daniels will describe the "Gestalt Social field Analysis" model. Panelists will discuss present starting points for systematic future development of Gestalt Social Theory.

Room 207-209

EIGHTH ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

**all workshops
1 - 2:50 pm**

BAM: Helping Boys Make Contact in Groups

Peter Mortola

Room 211

BAM! stands for "Boys Advocacy and Mentoring." It was created by professionals to address issues boys face in communities and schools. This presentation synthesizes our experience running boys groups at a local elementary school over the past six years. It focuses on one, ten-week group with fifth grade boys in which we tell stories, create adventures and learn together. Participants will leave this presentation with an enriched appreciation of the ways Gestalt therapy has influenced our work with boys, the influence of narrative theory on our work, and an appreciation for the influences of gender in our work with children.

Cycle of Experience: An Affective/Bioenergetic Developmental View

Daniel Schiff

Room 212A

We are in a period of tremendous growth in our knowledge of human functioning, growth that both expands upon and confirms the organismic self-regulatory processes first articulated in Reichian and Gestalt theory and therapy, and depicted by the Cycle of Experience (COE). In this presentation I will enlarge upon the theoretical and clinical understanding of the COE, incorporating Stanley Greenspan's model of functional emotional development, Allan Schore's research on the developmental neurobiology of attachment, and Wilhelm Reich's research and writings on life energetic functioning, and discuss its application in the framing and execution of clinical interventions.

Interactive Group Therapy

Bud Feder & Susan Gregory

Room 214-216

This workshop will begin with an overview of Gestalt Group Therapy, starting with the style developed by the Perls', through to a description of Interactive Gestalt Group Therapy. This approach emphasizes a focus on participants' experiences pertaining to the present group. Bringing in outside events is discouraged. This 'staying in the group' leads to meaningful and intense experiences & awarenesses and creates the ground for important experimentation. After this initial presentation, followed by any clarification requested, volunteers will be sought for a demonstration group lasting 75 minutes.

Following the demonstration there will be processing of the experience by all in attendance.

NINTH ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

**all workshops
3 - 4:50 pm**

Using Dialogical Processes to Teach and Write About Gestalt Therapy

Ansel Woldt

Ballroom

Join *Sylvia Crocker, Peter Philippson, Gary Yontef, Bud Feder, Paul Schoenberg, Jon Frew, Brian O'Neill, Bob Lee, Seán Gaffney, Helga Matzko, Michael Clemmens, and Phil Brownell* for reflections and discussion around the process of using dialogue during writing and teaching. Following a brief presentation on the origins and role of dialogical processes in Gestalt therapy and teaching, co-presenters discuss their experiences of engaging in this process as a contribution to the textbook *Gestalt Therapy, History, Theory, and Practice*, edited by Ansel Woldt and Sarah Toman, of which these named people were chapter authors.

Women Growing Bolder

Gail Feinstein

Room 205

Our community/world/future calls women in power and truth to speak from their visions, their deep knowing and wisdom. Authentic and bold expression begins with sensing and occupying our bodies, cultivating an intimate relationship with them, our nature and environments. Through slowing down and pausing, we use sensory awareness in breathwork, movement, meditation and sound, to deepen exploration of what keeps us from fully stepping into our powers to defend what is sacred to us and how we interrupt and obstruct growth, moving from inhibiting to inhabiting our bodies, souls and ultimately, our lives - freeing our bold, wild women selves.

The Royal Road to Enlivened Aging

**Isabel Frederickson, Joseph Handlon,
Joan Cole, Bob Wendlinger**

Room 207-209

Four lively elders will discuss factors that they believe are important in aging successfully. The principle of integration is key: integration of self, of community, and of the world. Gestalt theory and practice provides a uniquely useful perspective for this process. Its emphasis on the importance of context helps us understand decisions, which may bring us pleasure or regrets. Integration includes the process of closure, as in dealing with "unfinished business" as well as "unfinished pleasures." Recapturing past "lost" memories, plus a way of "triggering" them will be presented. The importance of interpersonal connectedness throughout life is a basic theme.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006

NINTH ROUND OF WORKSHOPS

**all workshops
3 - 4:50 pm**

Beauty of the Symptom

Nikitina Ekaterina & Victor Bogmolov

This presentation will be covering the topic of the aesthetic quality of contact in Gestalt therapy. The aesthetic aspect of psychotherapeutic work will be explored and its relationship with clinical, diagnostic judgment and flow of awareness. Along with the beauty of specific symptoms, the general phenomena of beauty in psychotherapy will be observed. It is assumed that the aesthetic component, once in awareness, can be supportive to gestalt-therapists. This presentation includes work in smaller groups and discussion.

Room 211

Making Meaning in Gestalt Therapy

Karen K. Humphrey & Stephanie Glickman

This experiential, improvisational workshop investigates directly the process of the co-creation of meaning and its implications for therapeutic practice. The workshop draws on exercises & techniques developed for experimental ensemble theater as a phenomenological demonstration of basic Gestalt principles and field dynamics. Using these techniques, participants will create short dramatic sketches informed by the conference theme. These sketches will form the basis of joining and witnessing: two crucial elements in the co-creation of meaning. The workshop leaders are collaborators professionally as well as in an improvisational performance group. No theater experience necessary. Wear comfortable clothing. This will be fun!

Room 212A

Mending Clients, Mending Self: Finding the Balance

Marilyn Myles

The work of a therapist is intensely rewarding and we give to it from the deepest parts of ourselves. Yet it is hard work that can deplete energy reserves if they are not monitored and replenished when necessary. In this workshop, we will explore the concept of "compassion fatigue" with a brief didactic overview and a self-test. Participants will have the opportunity to experience how they can nourish themselves physically, emotionally and spiritually through awareness, movement, and rituals invoking the healing powers of nature, as well as through contact with one another.

Room 214-216

5 - 7 pm
Ballroom

Community Meeting #2 & Annual Meeting

7 - 7:30 pm
Party Room

Meeting for People Interested in Planning the 2008 Conference in Manchester, UK

7:30 - 12 pm
Ballroom

Dinner & Dance

8:30 - 12 pm
Party Room

Alternative to the Dance

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006

6:30 - 8:30 am
Party Room &
Courtyard

Breakfast Buffet

7 - 8 am
Room 209

Morning Activity: Wake up stretching to say goodbyes, and . . .

8:15 - 8:25 am
Room 205

Overview of the Day: Ansel Woldt, Continuing Education Officer & Archivist

9 - 10:45 am

Process Groups, Session #4

11 - 12:30 pm
Ballroom

Closing Plenary, Peter Philippon, President 2006-08



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION INFORMATION

Wednesday
with registration

Continuing Education (CE) Certificates will be available at the Registration Table on Sunday from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm for those who qualify for them.

Sunday

You must sign up for CE credit **at the beginning of the conference**, the administrative fee being \$30, and obtain signatures on your ATTENDANCE ROSTER throughout the conference.

8:00 am
until 1:00 pm

Twenty-six CE credits (26 hrs.) can be earned for those who attend the WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS, PLENARY SESSIONS, and PROCESS GROUP SESSIONS. Additional credits can be earned by attending the pre-conference sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

AAGT is approved as a provider of Continuing Education by the following professional societies and accrediting associations (AAGT maintains responsibility for the program):

- American Psychological Association
- California Board of Behavioral Sciences
- California Board of Registered Nurses
- National Board of Certified Counselors