

# ISST NEWSLETTER

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**1. LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS****Contribution to ISST Newsletter****November 11, 2012****Alexander Esterhuyzen & Rie Rogers Mitchell**

ISST and the Board have greatly benefited from the leadership of Ruth Ammann. She served as Vice President for eight years and then as President for the past eight years. During her tenure, ISST and the interest in Sandplay has grown at an astounding rate throughout the world. We greatly thank Ruth for her outstanding leadership and seminal contributions to ISST.

Even with Ruth's gracious guidance, it has been a steep learning curve for us (Rie Alex, Trudy, and the current Board). During the past year, we have had to uncover, discover, and construct procedures relating to the hands-on administration of our society. Some of this will be evidenced in the report below. Furthermore, ISST and Ruth were both based in Zurich. With the transfer of the presidency the challenge has been for us to become familiar with Swiss procedures, and equally a challenge for them to become used to dealing with personnel outside of Switzerland. This has truly been a test of our standing as an **International** Society. With the wonders of modern technology (Skype and email), there has been no hindrance to us, Rie and Alex, working together closely and we have found it enormously helpful to have each other as a sounding board and to share the very considerable workload

In order to create clear and transparent procedures, as well as provide clearly written templates to assist present and future ISST members with administrative procedures, Rie and Alex have invested a considerable amount of time in developing protocols. These protocols are for such routine matters as: processing certification applications and collecting dues, which ISST Administrator Hilary Vaughn implements. Hopefully, these protocols will assist future transitions of personnel.

Our society, and the interest in the Kalfian approach to Sandplay Therapy, is growing throughout the world at an utterly astonishing rate. Literally thousands of people are interested in working towards becoming fully certified Sandplay Therapists in many, many countries where there is no ISST national Society. When we were a smaller society, with fewer numbers of people outside of countries with national ISST societies wishing to be certified, it was more feasible for these individuals and countries to progress more or less organically. Now, we find ourselves in a position where more and more people wish to be officially recognized as trainees working towards ISST certification in these countries. As a result, we have had to work out ways to support this development, while maintaining our standards and complying with our Statutes and Rules of Procedures. One of the major pieces of work that we have developed is a clear procedure by which prospective trainees, who wish to train independently (because their country does not have a National Society) can register with ISST and be assigned a mentor who can guide them through their professional development. We have also looked at how best we can help countries where there is no national society to have a more coordinated approach towards training and accreditation. We now have documentation and procedures for both trainees and for countries working towards becoming a national society. These documents help developing groups form a cohesive and coordinated approach. We have benefited greatly from lessons learned by the IAAP in the developing groups, which are responsible for coordinating

(continued from page 2)

and facilitating training in analytical psychology in countries where there is no national IAAP group

A major area of interest in sandplay therapy is Asia. In June, the IAAP held an international congress in Macau, a special administrative region in China. Rie and Alex were delighted to be invited to participate in this congress, which features a significant input on sandplay. It gave us an opportunity to meet and mix with some of the leaders in IAAP and participate in the developing interest in sandplay therapy in Asia. We were proud to represent ISST at this event. We were also able to visit Korea where there are two major sandplay organizations, each with literally thousands of members. We hope that they will find a way forward to becoming an ISST National Society in the near future.

Having negotiated the challenges of a transition from a Zurich based administration; we can begin to focus on some of the other important tasks ahead of us. We are redeveloping the website so that it is more accessible and user-friendly. We also hope to support further research into sandplay therapy and disseminate sandplay knowledge through journals and newsletters. The richness of our society lies in the enormous wealth of being a multicultural and multinational society. We hope to continue to develop a sense of community and interchange among our members and look forward to your support in achieving this.

### **LETTER FROM TRUDY RANKIN, ISST TREASURER**

Hello to you from the ISST Treasurer's desk! The ISST Newsletter is a wonderful way to stay in touch with you and answer many questions that come up related to ISST dues and fiscal matters. I will use the newsletter to answer frequent questions that I receive. For this edition, I will explain *my role as Treasurer on the ISST Board*.

*I am accountable to the Board for fiscal management and reporting.* I have a financial assistant, who helps with the reports. It truly is helpful to have four eyes to keep track of an account that receives and pays monies in various denominations. *I assist the Presidents in educating them on the income and outgo of funds*, so that there is a secure understanding of the financial undergirding of ISST. Each month, the Presidents receive a Profit and Loss sheet, as well as a Balance sheet of our account. Each year at the ISST Board meeting, *the Board members receive a Financial Report* of the past year and proposed Budget for the coming year. *Bills are paid* through our account on a regular basis.

*Dues collection* from current and new members is a major activity of the year. I have found this more demanding than I expected. I can gratefully announce to you, as mutual members of ISST, that dues are not being raised this year. We want to be fiscally responsible for the dues you work so hard to earn. With this next edition, I will inform you of how your dues are used. Until then, I hope that this begins a more direct link to the Board and to the Treasurer.

My Best, Trudy.

## 2. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

### \*ITW August 2012 Poland: Alexander Esterhuyzen

#### \*(ITW) Intensive Training Weeks

The ISST Board is required by its constitution and the regulations of the Swiss Registration body to conduct an annual Board meeting. This meeting of the Board takes place in a country with an ISST National Society in years that we have an International Congress. The congress is on alternate years.

We were struck by the tremendous wealth of expertise and experience of our Board members and wanted to employ this experience in the service of communities who have no National Society and are far from, or cannot afford the expense of, International sandplay training. So we have arranged for the Board meeting to take place in such a country on alternate years when there is no Congress. Board members kindly agreed to work for an additional week for a minimal stipend to provide a week of intensive training. So far we have had ITW's in Holland, Brazil, Bulgaria and this year near Krakow in Poland. It is a time of great enrichment for students and teachers alike. The event aims to cover its own cost, but costs are kept down by the small stipend paid to teachers and the fact that half of travel costs have been covered by the board meeting. We also use very simple accommodation. The next ITW will take place in 2014 probably in a South American country.

Here are some comments from some of the 32 students who attended the ITW in Poland (for anonymity only the country of origin is included):

*"This was my first ITW experience and my curiosity and learning expectations were greatly rewarded. It was a very enriching experience in which I learned a lot from seeing very different teaching and supervising styles. I thank everyone for sharing their knowledge, their work experience, their passion for sand play and their hearts. It was an intense but joyful week for me. I even miss the annoying roosters (Romania)*

*For me this ITW was really intensive and very fruitful! I hope the next one will be the similar. I feel I go forward in training process and I am in the trust hands. (Latvia)*

*I would be happy to say that I found this ITW very inspiring, rich, with lots of depth, reflection and fun! It was a fantastic combination of theoretical and clinical material, not to mention dream matrix and dancing! (England)*

*Unforgettable experience which gives me enlightenment on further Sandplay works, thanks for all ISST teachers ! (China)*

### **22<sup>ND</sup> ISST INTERNATIONAL SANDPLAY CONGRESS VENICE, AUGUST 1-5, 2013**

**AISPT** (Italian Sandplay Therapy Association) has chosen Venice as the venue for the 22nd Congress of ISST because the city, and especially the island of St. Servolo, located in the basin of San Marco, represents with its charm, magic and hospitality, the perfect setting to host ISST participants from different countries who wish to bring their original contributions, from both a professional and cultural perspective, on the theme of "The Mask". The conference program will be sent out in February 2013. (continued on page 5)

## **AISPT, VENICE ISST CONFERENCE Cont...**

### **History of San Servolo, Venice**

The city of Venice has always shown in its history its own peculiar attitude of openness to acceptance and integration between different cultures. The Island of San Servolo in particular, being located in the city, but at the same time on the edge of it, has occasionally functioned as a filter of the contacts between the city itself and the external world. The island was originally a sand dune determined by the geological evolution of the lagoon area. The first settlement dates back to 600 by a group of Benedictine monks. At the end of 700 a church dedicated to San Servolo was built, with an annexed convent. In 1100 the island became a permanent establishment of the Benedictine nuns. In 1700 the Senate of the Republic of Venice decided to use the former convent as a military hospital to host wounded soldiers during the war against the Turks. Following a restructuring of the former convent and the pharmacy it became a permanent hospital settlement run by the Fathers Hospitallers St John of God. The new Hospital hosted patients with debilitating diseases and psychiatric illnesses. The island, after the conquest of Napoleon became a public psychiatric hospital and remained in this function until the year 1978 when a state law closed all the mental hospitals. From 1990 to 2003 work began for the recovery and restoration of buildings and currently it is the home of the International University and of a cultural foundation. On the island you can visit the 'interesting' little "Museum of Madness", where through pictures, stories and tools you can trace the history and evolution of methods of psychiatric care in recent centuries

### **3. NEWS FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES**

#### **AISPT (Italian Association for Sandplay Therapy): Report on the Meeting of the AISPT Research Groups, San Vito in Fior di Selva, September 14th-16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

##### **Coordinator: Carlo Ruffino**

The third meeting of the research groups on Sandplay Therapy, held in San Vito in Fior di Selva near Florence on September the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2012, showed clearly the progressive strengthening of the group structure inside the AISPT. The work we developed in San Vito permitted everyone, independently through affiliation with a particular group, to share thoughts and themes particular to each group and to get involved in a deep and productive discussion in a free and open-minded atmosphere. We noted the tendency to create and strengthen a new entity which we could call the "San Vito in Fior di Selva Research Group". After an enjoyable and warm Friday evening meal, we opened the seminar on Saturday morning in the presence of the AISPT President Dr. Stefano Marinucci, who attended the meeting all day.

The Florence group gave the first presentation: "Chaos in Sandplay pictures: working through and handling the therapist's counter transference". The presentation, and the sandtray images shown, gave rise to an engaging and deep discussion on the dynamic aspects of the chaos represented, and the potential presence of an ordering principle. The Milan group presented its thoughts on the possibility of looking for the therapist's shadow through the patient's process. After an exposition of general shadow theory, they focused their attention on the therapist's professional and personal shadow as it manifests itself in the images created by patients in the sandtray. (continued page 6)

The Rome group, just back from the Saint Petersburg Congress, synthesized the presentation they gave there on the theme of “Borderland”. Their research project for next year will be about feminine aggressiveness. Dr. Carla Cioffi presented on behalf of the Roman group: “Sands in movement”. In the last two years her group has investigated the theme of feminine light and shadow, comparing sandtray images with images from fairy tales. She concluded her speech recounting the Sicilian tale “Sventura”.

The Turin group explained their difficulties in creating a stimulating group dynamic and in finding a shared research theme. As we listened to the presentations of the different groups and discussed the themes evoked by them, we realized how important it is that every case is presented personally by the therapist in charge of it: the richness of the emotions experienced in the counter-transference can be communicated only by the therapist who treated the patient.

We will have to cancel our annual meeting at San Vito next year, owing to the closeness of the Venice ISST Congress. However it is our purpose to organize within the Congress a short meeting of the members of the “San Vito Research Group” to update everyone on the progress of all the research and to prepare our next meeting. We also proposed that the “Gruppo Eventi” organize a conference to present the research works of the San Vito group to a wider public.

### **Seminars in Milan- 2013**

The Research Group dell' AISPT (The Italian Association for Sandplay Therapy) in Milan consisting of Physicians and Psychologists has long been interested in deepening theoretical and clinical research on the use of Sandplay Therapy in analytical psychology. This year we offer a series of meetings of theoretical and clinical work on trauma and its effects on both psychological and organic states, and its diagnosis and treatment with Sandplay. The theme is "Specificity of Sandplay Therapy in the diagnosis and treatment of psychological and physical trauma"

### **Milan Seminar Yearly Program:**

**January 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 -The ECM first meeting**, will be held at The Institute Don Gnocchi, Milan from 9.30 to 13. There will be two presentations:

\* ***“The Mystery of Trauma”*** - Dr. Milvia Talamini

\* ***“When words fail, the body speaks: a comparison between neuro-scientific discoveries and treatment with Sandplay Therapy”*** - Dr. a Napoliello Rosa Balfour.

**February 9, 2013** \* ***“ Wound, trauma, repair: when the body speaks through images ”*** Dr. Marco Garzonio

**March 23, 2013:** \*Title to be announced – Dr. Maria Teresa Pasolini

\****Why do not you speak? The clinical case of a child with elective mutism”*** Dr. Chiara

Bottari **April 20, 2013** \* ***Representing trauma: a case of violence treated with Sandplay Therapy and Analytical Art Therapy*** “ – Dr. Filomena Rosiello

\****The fragile house, the little mermaid, the joker: the girl who does not smile and myotonic dystrophy of Steinart.*** Understanding and dealing with the trauma through Sandplay Therapy - Dr. Sonia Giorgi

**June 8, 2013** \*” ***Joseph, the actuality of a traumatic event”*** - Dr. Maria Luisa di Giacinto

\* ***“Share the silence”*** Dr. Elvira Valente

**BISS- British and Irish Sandplay Society, Alexander Esterhuyzen, ( Previous BISS Chair)**

The British and Irish Sandplay Society has been in existence for twenty five years now. Since its inception its aim has been to provide training and research in Sandplay in the tradition of Dora Kalff and the ISST. It was one of the first ISST National societies to institute a systematic centrally co-ordinated national Sandplay training. This training ensures participation of a wide variety of teachers who cover the essential requirements for certification. BISS continues to offer a two-year training cycle of theoretical sand play teaching which also aims to be a container which helps direct students towards membership. In 2011 thirteen students finished our fifth two-year training cycle. A further nine students have signed up for the new two-year cycle which started in 2012. Students continue to be very enthusiastic about the content and delivery of our training course. Manpower continues to be a challenge for a small society but we have a large body of students who, having completed the applied theoretical training are continuing to work towards certification through completing supervision and case reports. We are hopeful that our numbers of full members will grow in the near future.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Kate Loiseau has taken up the role of BISS Chair. Kate has long been a dedicated and active member of BISS who has supported our training program since its inception. BISS has an extremely important role as a National Society and I trust that it will continue to form a focus which can link together the many gifted individuals practising sand play in our tradition in Britain and Ireland.

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**CAST: Canadian Association of Sandplay Therapy, Sylvia Simonyi- Elmer**

CAST just had its Board Meeting. We continue to provide training in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. In 2014 CAST will have a National Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. Our Teaching Member Committee meets regularly to discuss the CAST training. Our current mandate is to work with the provinces to ensure that Sandplay Therapy in Canada meets regulation standards as a recognized psychotherapeutic technique.

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**ISTA (Israeli Sandplay Therapists Association)****Dr. Bert Meltzer, President**

This year our 12 ISTA members, and candidates, have continued to provide sandplay training and supervision in Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem, and offer therapeutic services throughout Israel, in hospitals, mental health clinics, schools, and in the private sector, with many populations.

Two special projects are: 1) the Sderot project that provides Sandplay therapy individually and in groups, to child trauma victims in neighborhoods under frequent attack by rockets and mortars; and 2) the Laqya project, that involves the introduction of Sandplay therapy within a Bedouin (Nomadic Arab) community school, which has an influence on the social structure, gender relationships, staff, student, and family relationships, and prevailing values of secrecy and privacy. It is as much a social experiment as it is a therapeutic intervention.

## **DGST– The German Society of Sandplay Therapy, Ulrike Hinsch, ISST Board representative**

### **The German Swiss Sandplay Symposium “Re-Formation, Roots and Growth of Sandplay Therapy”, Augustinerkloster Erfurt, Germany, November 2nd – 4th, 2012**

More than 100 participants attended the German-Swiss Sandplay conference which took place in Erfurt Thuringia, at the famous historical Augustinerkloster in Erfurt, where Martin Luther lived 500 years ago as a monk. Keynote lectures were given by Alexander von Gontard, Ruth Noel-Hermann, Joerg Rasche and Anke Seitz and seminars by Deborah Bedford-Strohm, Ignez Carvalho Hartmann, Gisela Dorstewitz, Silvia Hoefer and Viola Scheller and others.

Reflection on the roots of Sandplay, insight into new directions in Sandplay, and communication among the members, were complemented by excursions to famous places that are part of our heritage and of European history as well. During the symposium the general assembly of DGST took place and a new board was elected: Joerg Rasche ISST teaching member (president), Monika Heinzl-Junger, also ISST teaching member ( vice president) and Mitra Shirazi, Ulrich Gwinner and Gisela Dorstewitz.

**Award to Dr. Joerg Rasche, DGST member and ISST Board member:** Dr Rasche was awarded the Polish Golden Cross of Merit, on October 15<sup>th</sup> in Krakow at Jagiellonian University. He has been deeply involved in didactic activity in Poland for more than ten years, teaching seminars on analytical psychology, Sandplay therapy and child psychopathology. In all these he worked on a voluntary basis, devoting his private time and sometimes also his private financial resources. He initiated and organized a scientific conference on the cultural biases in psychiatric work, with particular focus on the social ramifications of the Second World War, held in 2005 in Frankfurt (Oder) – the borderland city between Poland and Germany.

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### **IBTSandplay - INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE TERAPIA DE SANDPLAY**

**President Ana Maria Colicchio L.V. Sbrissa**

The Brazilian Sandplay Therapy Institute was founded on June 2nd, 2011 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and was officially recognized by ISST during the congress in Ittingen Switzerland, in August 2011. One of the main goals of our institute is to offer qualified training for professionals interested in working with Sandplay. Training will be one tool to ascertain the use of Sandplay as a serious and deep therapeutic method following the teachings of Dora Kalff as well as the concepts of Analytical Psychology. Further goals of the institute include the study, dissemination and research of Sandplay Therapy through seminars and conferences. Our focus and challenge is to encourage the interest in Sandplay and to promote competence and integrity in the use of the method.

In recent years, Sandplay Therapy has attracted increasing interest and developed significantly in Brazil and South America. We would like to foster exchange with other National Societies within the ISST for the exchange of theoretical and practical knowledge ensuring the professional growth of our members. Of our twelve founding members six are teaching members. Our web address is: [www.ibtsandplay.org.br](http://www.ibtsandplay.org.br)

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## **NVST (NETHERLANDS SANDPLAY THERAPY SOCIETY)**

### **Vanessa Prins: President and ISST Board Representative**

The NVST is still a young National Society, since it was accepted by ISST in 2009 in Kyoto. We are a relatively small organisation. We have 6 ISST members, and about 10 student-members. How shall I describe our Society? I would say it is a warm and active society. We have a General Meeting once a year and the Board regularly meets to discuss business issues. We invite Teaching Members from abroad about 4 times a year to give us workshops and supervision. We do not run a training program yet. We have close contacts with the Jungian Group. We feel it is important to keep learning about Sandplay, and sharing experience as well as new and exciting ideas with our colleagues from abroad!

Last year was important for us because Thesera Foks-Appelman became our first Certified Teaching Member. Her book on children's' drawings has been translated into many languages. The English title is "Draw Me a Picture: The Meaning of Children's Drawings and Play from the Perspective of Analytical Psychology".

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### **SGSST Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy**

#### **Maria Kendler ISST Board Representative**

The Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy was founded in 1999 and presently consists of 15 certified members. Sandplay seminars and Supervision are offered in both, the German and French part of Switzerland. We are working increasingly together with DGST to offer training, congresses and we work together on the German Journal for Sandplay Therapy.

**THE GERMAN JOURNAL FOR SANDPLAY THERAPY** appears twice a year. The editorial team consists of Maria Kendler (SGSST), Dr. Jörg Rasche and Christine Utecht (both DGST). In this journal, specialised articles about Sandplay therapy are published in the German language. We have published case studies, symbol papers, reflections about certain aspects of Jungian psychology and the evolution of Sandplay. In November 2012, Volume Nr. 33 will appear and reach our 360 subscribers.

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### **STA - Sandplay Therapists of America,**

#### **Maria Ellen Chiaia & Judy Zappacosta , ISST Board Representatives**

**June 2012:** STA held a **three day national conference** in Berkeley, California which we have every two years. This year the theme was *Returning to the Self in Sandplay*, with a focus on nature, somatic experience, as well as the preverbal and nonverbal states that are evoked when working in the sand and attending the relationship . The conference was attended by over 200 people coming from all over the United States and also from countries around the world. The conference format was creative and innovative including many experiential components with an opening and closing ritual with a large round group sandtray as well as movement and sound. There were many in-depth and thoughtful presentations on theory and practice as well as on research and training. (continued next page)

Because the conference was in the San Francisco bay area which is where Dora Kalff taught for many years there were many rich and powerful connections to the roots of sandplay both in the attendance and in the presentations. We included many analysts from the Jung Institute of San Francisco to present their work and speak of the interface and history between sandplay and Jungian psychology, inviting them to join and become part of STA and our international community.

In June 2012 our **Sandplay Therapy Institute** graduated the first group of students who had completed the two year training in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A second group of students began in September 2012 and will be meeting in Tampa, Florida. This training, which is attended by students from all over the United States, provides in-depth study of the theory and practice of sandplay therapy and enables completion of the education requirements of training for clinical membership in STA/ISST. At the end of the 2nd year students are connected with supervisors to begin supervision and can continue individually on SKYPE. If there are regional groups in their area, they are connected with those.

In 2013 we will be having our **2nd Sandplay Assembly** in Santa Fe, New Mexico. An assembly is a combination of our annual membership meeting of certified members and a time of mentoring and inclusion of students of sandplay therapy. We have presentations by students and newer members who are mentored by teaching members and give case writing and paper writing workshops as well as group and individual supervision. Our first assembly was in Minneapolis hosted by our first regional sandplay group and was a great success, attended by over 75 members and students.

Our **regional groups** are growing. Our newest regional group NCRSS in Northern California is beginning their first 2 year training program with attendance of over 20 students. Twelve of the thirteen teaching members will teach in this program and clinical members will be mentored by teaching members. Older established regional groups in Minnesota and New Mexico have had and continue to have active training programs as well as training programs in other areas of the US: North Carolina, Colorado and Texas. We are excited by the growing interest and involvement of a younger generation in sandplay therapy.

#### **4. JOURNALS, BOOKS, DVD'S**

*In forthcoming issues of the ISST Newsletter, we will feature in this section, information about different types of publications about sandplay, which include new books, articles and sandplay journals and DVDs.*

*To all ISST members:*

*Please send your comments and suggestions about the ISST Newsletter to:*

*Hilary Vaughn, ISST Administrator [isstadmin@virginmedia.com](mailto:isstadmin@virginmedia.com)*