The ISST Newsletter is an electronic publication e-mailed to all ISST members of National Societies and to Independent Members. It provides information about Jungian Sandplay Therapy as developed by ISST founder Dora Kalff. This method is practiced by certified ISST members of National Societies and by Independent Members throughout the world. The Newsletter aims to facilitate communication between all ISST members and to provide access to current research, events, and educational opportunities in the field of Sandplay Therapy. Please visit our website for information about education and training in Jungian Sandplay: www.isst-society.com

In this issue: Conference Announcements, National Society News, National Society Representatives as your link to ISST, Guidelines for Final ISST Sandplay Case, & ISST Research Committee call for symbol paper abstracts

Please pass on this Newsletter to your students and others interested in Sandplay in the tradition of Dora Kalff and underpinned by Analytical Psychology.
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LETTER FROM THE ISST PRESIDENT
Dr. ALEXANDER ESTERHUYZEN

Dear Members of ISST,

It is time again for our newsletter. I hope it will be of interest to you and your trainees to find out what is happening Internationally. This Newsletter contains information about many of our affiliated National Society events:

24th ISST CONGRESS HAWAII

Please take note of details about our next ISST Congress in Hawaii in July 2017 (Page 7)

ITW RIGA

Also do spread the word about the ITW that will take place in Latvia near Riga, between the 5th- 11th of August, 2016. This is a low cost event which includes teaching, board and lodging. It is an opportunity to live and work with International Colleagues. (Page 6).

IAAP CONGRESS, KYOTO

The IAAP Congress will take place in Kyoto in late August, early September. I know many of you will be attending after the personal invitation of Tom Kelly, the current IAAP President. As an affiliated Society of IAAP, our ISST meeting will take place on 28 August from 2pm and you are cordially invited to attend.

Our Society continues to go and develop across the globe. This brings with it many rewards and challenges also. You have heard of some of these in my Presidents report from our last Board meeting and at the Congress in Ottawa. I am confident that together we will find solutions that work and enhance the aims of our society.

Warm regards
Alexander
A NOTE FROM TRUDY RANKIN, ISST TREASURER

GREETINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF ISST FROM THE TREASURER

My goal in writing to you until I complete my term is to communicate how valuable the experience of being Treasurer is to me. I want to motivate you to consider being elected to this position at the end of my term in 2019. I hope to motivate you to see the value and importance of maintaining an effective system of financial management for benefit of our membership. With that, there comes a great deal of satisfaction. You can have this satisfaction too.

Let me give you the statistics of the organization at this time:

In the 11 Societies, we have:
221 regular members,
29 retired members,
2 temporary inactive members,
2 honorary members
Since January 1st, 10 new members joined the National Societies
There are 46 Independent Members
2 of these are new this year

This makes a total of 310 members and we are waiting on four who have late dues.

The Board meeting will be in Riga, Latvia. The Board meeting expenses will be adequately covered. The Intensive Training Week outside of Riga will pay for itself. We hope to have 40 participants attending.

We maintain our bank accounts in Switzerland and in the US at this time.

Can you see the satisfaction in my words? You would have this too! Consider it, as you watch how I work!!!!

Best,

Trudy Corry Rankin
ISST Treasurer
2016 INTENSIVE TRAINING WEEK FOR SANDPLAY TRAINEES
In Apsuciems, near Riga, Latvia: 5th -11th of August

A unique opportunity!

The ITW will take place in the small town of Apsuciems, not far from the Riga Bay. The comfortable, modern Spa hotel is set in a picturesque setting place on the banks of the meandering river Lacupite, close to the sea side.

* The Course starts Friday, 5 August before dinner and ends Thursday, 11 August after breakfast.
* All the sessions are accredited towards ISST certification.
* The teachers are all well known ISST Board and Teaching Members.
* Teaching is in English and sufficient knowledge of English is required.

Informal translation in groups can be arranged by the students themselves, if needed.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM:
Friday evening: Welcoming and Opening lecture
Mornings: Saturday– Wednesday; Plenum lectures on essential topics regarding Sandplay Therapy.
Topics include: Symbolic understanding of the sand, Attachment through the life cycle, Pre-sandplay with children, Bereavement and loss, Understanding unconscious communications in sandplay images, essential Jungian themes.

Afternoons: Saturday – Wednesday;
Divide into smaller groups according to level of experience.
Each day there will be a seminar on special topics or case material.
In parallel: Groups for supervision (10 participants max.) Students present their work.

Evenings: Wednesday: Special dinner,
Other evenings free for discussion, events, films, socializing etc.
Thursday- Leaving after Breakfast

COST: Transport from Central Riga to Apsuciems will be provided.
All rooms with own bathroom facilities. Prices are per person in Swiss Francs (CH)
Prices at February exchange rate for indication, but exchange rates may vary:
Single room (cost information at Jean Mak at isst.secretary@gmail.com)
Twin room (two beds with two persons sharing)
Triple room (three persons sharing)

Please contact Jean Mak for an application form and program
Email: isst.secretary@gmail.com

Places for participants are limited to maximum of 40 students: first come, first served. Payment upon registration with Credit Card only.
SANDPLAY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Earth – Living Space and Symbol
15th Joint DSGT & SGSST Conference for Sandplay Therapy

Swiss and German Associations for Sandplay Therapy SGSST / DGST

Berlin, Germany, 2016, October 21 – 23.

Lectures and workshops by
Ortwin Renn, Joerg Rasche, Ruth Noel-Hermann,
Mitra Shirazi, Alexander von Gontard, Robert Feind,
Ulrich Gundermann, Liga Ravina, Vita Karlina,
Lorraine Dupont and Vera Tschscherbakowa.

There will be a Mandala Exhibition and Music from Turkey and Iran.
In the additional program, guided visits to the Museum of Natural History
and to the famous Paintings Gallery will be arranged.

The conference language is German.
Translation (Latvian, Polish, German) will be arranged.
For more information and registration please see the website of DGST.
**JUNE 2 - 5, 2016: STA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**
**CHICAGO/SKOKIE**
*Connecting Body, Mind and Spirit through Sandplay*

*Martin Kalff - Dora Kalff Lecture*
*Denise Ramos - Kay Bradway Lecture*

**REGISTER ON-LINE**: [www.sandplay.org](http://www.sandplay.org)

*Diversity Scholarships available*

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**JAST 30TH NATIONAL CONGRESS- OCTOBER 15-16, 2016**

The 30th national congress of JAST will be held at Tezukayama Gakuin University and the building of BiG-i (International Communication Center for Persons with Disabilities) in Osaka, From the 15th to 16th of October 2016.

The theme of the congress is "**Good to See, Good to Make: Sandplay Therapy and Art**“

*(Mite-Yoshi, Tsukutte-Yoshi: Hakoniwa Ryouhou to Art)*

Please see page 12 for more information about the JAST Congress
(Additional information about the JAST 30th Congress (in Japanese) is available at:
http://tezuka-gu-ict.jp/event/hako30th/)
Aloha!

The 24th ISST Congress will be held from 19-23 July 2017 in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

The theme will be “Destruction and Creation in the Fertile Fields of Sandplay”

The Call for Papers will be issued 10 June 2016 with submissions due by 15 September 2016. More information will follow.

For now, Save the Date!
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN NATIONAL SOCIETIES?

STA (Sandplay Therapists of America) President: Jill Kaplan
ISST Board Representative: Betty Jackson
STA Report : Betty Jackson

Sandplay Therapists of America continues its mission to promote Sandplay in the tradition of Dora M. Kalff through publication of the Journal of Sandplay Therapy, national and regional conferences, and the Sandplay Therapy Institute.

Now in its 24th year of publication, the Journal of Sandplay Therapy remains a rich source of information and insight about Sandplay therapy. Its international scope continues with the most recent publication including articles not only from the United States, but Australia, Hong Kong, Israel, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

The Sandplay Therapy Training Institute is currently offering its third 2-year training course in Dallas, Texas. STI plans a fourth 2-year course to be held in Chicago beginning in 2017. More detailed information about the Institute and other regional training groups can be found on STA’s website - www.sandplay.org.

STA is especially excited to announce its upcoming national conference: Connecting Body, Mind, and Spirit through Sandplay, to be held in Chicago, Illinois June 2-5. Registration is available on STA’s website.

The conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Martin Kalff from Switzerland, and plenary speakers Denise Ramos from Brazil, and Lorraine Freedle and Judy Zappacosta from the United States, as well as presenters from 10 different countries.

SGSST (Swiss Society of Sandplay Therapy) President: Maria Kendler
Board representative: Rut Boss-Baumann

Training Opportunities
The activities of SGSST are mainly focused on creating training opportunities.
In October 2015, the first year of a 3-years-training-cycle has started in the French part of Switzerland with 15 highly motivated participants. A schedule of 3 weekends of training per year, covering theory and a part of group supervision seems to be an interesting formula for candidates.

In January 2016, SGSST had a specific meeting about further Sandplay training in Switzerland. We decided to offer a similar training cycle in Zurich in the German language, beginning in January 2017. This program will be organized by Dr. Bruno Hofstetter. The teachers are Dr. Martin Kalff, Dr. Ruth Noël, Rut Boss-Baumann, Maria Kendler.

In addition to that, SGSST organizes 2 days of Sandplay seminars per year open for any interested public in Basel and Geneva. On Nov. 7th 2015, Viola Scheller and Annabelle Aebersold organized a day of professional exchange around 2 case presentations (Rut Boss-Baumann, Dr. Marianne Meister) in Basel with 30 participants.

We are participating in the organization and realization of the joint German Congress of DGST and SGSST in Berlin (21 - 23 October 2016).

Our next General Assembly will be held on June 4th 2016.
BISS (British and Irish Sandplay Society)  
President: Valeria Grishko (ISST Board Representative)

Sandplay events
In continuation of the day events that BISS has been organizing for its members and students in 2014 and 2015, BISS held an extremely successful event in April of this year with Jill Kaplan, TM STA/ISST entitled The Spiritual Impulse in Sandplay: Archetypes of Healing and Compassion. It was well attended and we received positive feedback about the training. BISS is exploring further day long training events and workshops for the second part of this year and 2017.

BISS Training Course
BISS Training Course is in its second year and will end in November 2016. Some of the current students have completed their first symbol papers and are beginning to work in acquiring required supervision hours for BISS/ISST membership.

Book Chapters
One of the BISS students Emma Allen has written two book chapters on Forensic Sandplay Therapy:


"Some People Never Live": Images of Renewal & Recovery in Sandplay Therapy by Emma Allen, Chapter in Llewellyn-Jones, S. & Mann, B. (2016) "Engagement in Secure Recovery", The Royal College of Psychiatrists, due to be published later this year (2016). Emma was invited to write for Llewellyn-Jones & Mann to introduce how Sandplay Therapy has been introduced into the high secure setting.

Emma also recently presented some case material from her symbol study ‘Confronting the Monkey in Forensic Sandplay Therapy’ at the International Association of Forensic Psychotherapy (IAFP)’s 25th Anniversary Conference at the University of Ghent, Belgium during the 7th-10th April 2016. Emma has also been invited to lecture on Forensic Sandplay Therapy at the University of Derby on the MA Drama therapy course. This will take place in May 2016.

Valeria Grishko will be presenting at the STA National Conference in June 2016 on the topic of Animal as Symbol & Instinct: Embodied Presence in Sandplay.
A traumatic earthquake hit the southern part of Taiwan on February 6th of this year, two days before the beginning of the Lunar New Year. More than a hundred people were killed in these apartment buildings (as shown in the picture), located in Tainan. **Dr. Michael Huang and Dr. Grace Hong** volunteered their time, traveling to Tainan to support the professionals who were helping the victims.

The next picture shows the teachers and attendants holding one of their creations that they produced during a workshop designed by Dr. Grace Hong to help relieve stresses related to working with Extremely traumatized victims. In this seminar, Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) were beautifully delivered to the audience.

**Sandplay Workshops**

This year, we will conduct two introductory sandplay workshops, which will be held in Kaohsiung (in May) and Taipei (in September) respectively.

We hope these events will cause more professionals to be interested in sandplay. We will have an intermediate sandplay workshop in Zang-Hua entitled, *Symbol Formation*. This two-day workshop will be taught by Dr. Grace Hong. As indicated in the last newsletter, we are also offering an Estelle Weinrib’s DVD seminar once a month, which started in last October and will conclude this June. This well-attended course, taught by Dr. Grace Hong, Dr. Michael Huang, and Dr. Mon-hsin Wang Flahive, has gone smoothly; the teachers and the trainees have enjoyed the spirit of Estelle very much. She is surely our sandplay teacher and model, though she is gone from this world and we do not have the fortune to meet her personally.

Dr. Gita Morena was in Taiwan last December, conducting a three-day workshop from December 4th to December 6th. She also provided group supervisions in Taipei and Kaohsiung and gave a speech at the Union Congress of Psychotherapy and Mental Health in Taiwan on December 12th, entitled, *The Journey of Splitting, Opposition and Integration: Sandplay and Individuation Process*. This event was well-received.

Starting this year, there is an ongoing membership event, *Sandplay and I*, held in Kaohsiung. This event involves a special report prepared by several advanced sandplay trainees with topics ranging from creation myths to Taiwanese folklores. Attendants also exchange miniatures and share their clinical experiences with each other.

We are delighted that Alex Esterhuyzen, the President of ISST, will be coming to Taiwan to conduct workshops in late November of this year. Board members are working hard in planning this event and, hopefully, it will be a successful one.

Our annual assembly will be held on November 26th at noon. There will be no election this year. We currently have about 80 members; 28 of them are permanent members.
ISTA (Israeli Sandplay Therapists Association)
Michal Troudart, President
ISST Board Representative: Lenore Steinhardt

ISTA has 12 members, of whom 10 are now Teaching Members. In December Dr. Galit Ben Amitay was approved by ISST as our newest Teaching Member.

In February Dr. Sana Loue, a Sandplay therapist from Cleveland, Ohio, gave a lecture to ISTA members about her Sandplay work with clients suffering from schizophrenia. In March we held ISTA's annual meeting. After the organizational issues we enjoyed Dr. Mark Bortz’s case-presentation concerning the Orphan archetype, based on the lecture that he gave in the ISST conference in Ottawa “At the Crossroads of Death and Life: Mourning, Purpose and the Orphan Archetype”.

International Teaching
Some of ISTA’s teaching members are teaching abroad. Dr. Bert Meltzer and Rina Porat teach in Moscow. Michal Troudart teaches another group in Moscow. In March Michal also gave a seminar in Kiev, and attended a conference of child psychology, where she gave a lecture about Sandplay therapy and an open supervision of a case presented by one of the participants.

Lenore F Steinhardt was invited for the second time in March to do intensive Sandplay training workshops and supervision groups in Hong Kong, for the Hong Kong Sandplay Therapists Association (HKSTA). The training workshops were open to members and students of Sandplay in Hong Kong, and from other neighboring countries. A brief experiential component was given in order to experience the theoretical material that was taught (the invisible map of the sandtray and the specificity and meanings of placement within the sandtray area). Each participant brought a few miniatures and natural objects, and small individual sandtrays and sand were provided for everyone by HKSTA.

Sandplay Programs in Israel
Three groups are currently studying Sandplay Therapy in Israel and completing their first year of studies: a group of 11 therapists are studying in a three-year program in Nir-Israel, directed by Rina Porat and Dr. Bert Meltzer; and a group of 8 therapists are studying in a three-year program in Jerusalem, directed by Michal Troudart;

A group of 14 students are studying in the Two-Year Sandplay Training Program directed by Lenore F Steinhardt in the Kibbutzim Seminar of Education. The students will contribute in their second year to the theoretical content of the course, by presenting a symbol or Sandplay phenomenon to the class. Some interesting symbols that have been chosen this year are the difference between digging in sand or in earth, shipwreck and the ocean, the goldfish, and the pearl. The previous group researched symbols that appear in Sandplay, such as “Bird in a Cage”, “The Market Place”, The Scallop”, The Parrot”, “Olive Tree”, “Clouds” and “The Centaur”.
The national training program of JAST, the second one of the 2015 fiscal year, was held at Kyoto Research Park on 28th February 2016. We had 307 participants and the number was more than the capacity of the sheets. The program consisted of one plenary lecture and seven workshops. The plenary lecture was given by Dr. Sachiko Taki-Reece and the theme was "Seven Types of Play in Sandplay Therapy."

The workshops were:
"Generation of Imagery in Adolescence" (Keiko Iwamiya);
"Sharing and Differentiation of Imagination among Family members" (Toshio Kawai);
"In Search for the Stance (Mental Attitude) for Sandplay Therapy in Psychotherapy" (Madoka Kawato);
"Seeing Through the Movement of Psychological Paradox from a Viewpoint of Image and Body" (Toshihisa Kawahara);
"Another I" in Sandplay Therapy" (Tomoko Kuwabara);
"Case Study" (Sachiko Taki-Reece); and
"Hakoniwa Making (Practice)" (Sonoko Toyoda and Reiko Takatsuki).

JAST 30TH NATIONAL CONGRESS- OCTOBER 15-16, 2016

The 30th national congress of JAST will be held at Tezukayama Gakuin University and the building of BiG-i (International Communication Center for Persons with Disabilities) in Osaka, from 15th to 16th of October 2016.

The theme of the congress is "Good to See, Good to Make: Sandplay Therapy and Art" (Mite-Yoshi, Tsukutte-Yoshi: Hakoniwa Ryouhou to Art).

The representative of the organizing committee is Prof. Hirohisa Higashiyama.

As this year is the 30th anniversary of JAST, two symposia are organized:

"Japanese Psyche in Old Pictures" (Public Symposium by Akira Yamaguchi (Artist), Keiko Iwamiya, Yasuhiro Tanaka and Tsuyoshi Inomata) and

"Thirty Year History of Hakoniwa Psychotherapy Viewed from Case Studies." (Case Symposium for JAST members by Sagako Takano, Yoshiyuki Maekawa, Hirohisa Higashiyama, Toshio Kawai and Shin Morita).

Twelve workshops will be offered during the congress.

In memory of late Haruko Kimura, a special program will be held for the seventh anniversary of her death.

(Information about the 30th Congress (in Japanese) is available at: http://tezuka-gu-ict.jp/event/hako30th/)
IBTS (Brazilian Institute of Sandplay Therapy)  
President: Denise Ramos (ISST Board Representative)

The Brazilian Institute of Sandplay Therapy would like to announce the change in the board (2015-2017) that now is composed by:

President: Denise G. Ramos  
Treasurer: Reinalda Mello da Mata  
Director of Studies and Training: Edna G. Levy  
Director of External Events and Clinical Service: Sylvia M. Portella  
Director of Communication: Margareth Lury Yoshikawa/ Suzana Hirata.

Instituto Brasileiro de Terapia de Sandplay  
With pleasure, we would like to announce the new members approved and certificated by ISST: Neusa M. L. Suaia, Marcia R. Sapata, Rudinalva Alves, Jussara M.W. Janowski, Lucia M.A. Azevedo, Mariana S.T. Chalfon, Susan C. Albert, Maria Helena M. Balthazar, Maria Aparecida F. Vilhena and Roger Naji El Khouri. At the photo, some of our new members.

We were also very pleased with the success of the presentation of the paper Trauma in Children: Evaluation and transformation through Sandplay Therapy by our colleague Reinalda da Matta in the ISSTD (International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation) 33rd Annual Conference in San Francisco March 31 - April 1, 2016. This paper is the result of her Ph.D thesis in Clinical Psychology at Pontíficia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. The advisor was Denise Ramos.

Unhappily, due to political and economic crises Brazil is going through we had to postpone the beginning of a new training, as was planned, until a more favorable moment. Also due personal problems Margareth Lury Yoshikawa had to step down her position as director of communication. Suzana Hirata will serve in her place.

At the moment we have being very busy working on the Call for papers together with STA for the next ISST Congress that will be held in Hawai, 2017. More news will be released soon.

Last April, we had an assembly where the new members were introduced. At the occasion besides the celebration, we had the opportunity to clarify the rules and statutes of ISST. We hope that now reenergized by the new talents and expertise, IBTSandplay will expand to new frontiers of application and development of Sandplay.
AISPT (The Italian Society for Sandplay Therapy)
President: Rosa Napliello Balfour
ISST Board Representative: Carlo Ruffino

Teaching Program
After the increase in the number of enrolments in the first year, the AISPT has been devoting much effort to improving the organization of the AISPT Psychotherapy School in Rome making the teaching program even more structured and coherent. A day meeting will be scheduled to that end. Through the School our Society is able to spread the knowledge and practice of Sandplay Therapy and to bring in new motivated young colleagues.

Supervision Groups
Furthermore, the experience of the supervision groups, held monthly by a different TM in different towns, is proceeding with good results: many colleagues normally attend and the presentation of different cases, concerning both adults or children/adolescents, gives rise to interesting in-depth discussions. A short report of every group session is then circulated for the information to Society members.

Workshops and Conference
On February the 17th a workshop took place in Rome entitled: “Facing the suffering of the other”. Dr. Filomena Rosiello developed the theme of the importance of the photograph of the sandtray image. She showed how emotional/countertransferential reactions influence and guide the photographer in choosing a particular perspective or viewpoint in taking the picture, giving the observer an irrational rather than only logical/rational information.

Also in February Dr. Mariella Saletti and Michele de Toma gave a presentation of Sandplay Therapy with children in Varese, emphasizing its usefulness in integrating body and psyche, conscious and unconscious.
On April the 16th D. Marco Garzonio gave in Verona a lecture on the relevant theme of “Wound, Trauma and Mending”.

Furthermore the AISPT is working to organize a conference entitled Conflicts, culture, integration. The possible contribution of the Sandplay Therapy in a changing world, which will be held in October 2016 at the Bicocca University in Milan.

Lastly, in Rome a new Clinical Center “Casetta Rossa” has been open recently. It was set up in cooperation with two nonprofit organizations to offer low cost psychotherapy in view of the difficult financial situation of many Italian people. In the Center patients both adults and children can be followed using Sandplay Therapy and the younger members of the AISPT can find a suitable space to begin practicing. We hope that in the near future other similar clinical centers may be opened in other towns throughout the country.

On-line Sandplay Journal “Le Orme” Call for Papers
As was approved at the previous ISST Board meeting and confirmed in the last general assembly of the AISPT, we have formulated a proposal to be discussed by the ISST Board to turn the AISPT’s on line journal “Le Orme” into the international journal of the ISST.
In the meantime, the editorial staff have chosen the theme of the next issue of the journal: “Cultures, Conflicts, Integration”. Proposed papers for publication should be sent to rivistaorme@aispt.it by the end of July.
We have 16 members in our organization, 7 are ISST members, and until April we had 3 Teaching Members. We just heard that the ISST has accepted Anna Schwerdtfeger as a Teaching Member so we are proud to report that we now have 4 Teaching Members in the Netherlands.

In January 2016 Prof, dr. Von Gontard gave an excellent workshop about Sandplay Therapy of anxiety disorders in children.

From 14-17 April Theresa Foks taught at the Sandplay Institute in Dallas with Lavon Bobo. In addition to case presentations she taught about the relationship with parents of children in Sandplay therapy.

On May 28 dr Jörg Rasche from Berlin will offer a workshop about The Mourning Process of a Boy as well as a piano lecture about Mother-Child-Music, the early interaction of mother and child as in the “Scenes from Childhood” by Robert Schumann. We are looking forward to learning more about music and Sandplay as this aspect of Sandplay is not often discussed.

This spring, Anna Schwerdtfeger’s clinical case, The Resurrection of Osiris, presented at the Ottawa conference in 2015, will be published in the Journal of Sandplay Therapy.

Due to illness of one of our board members a planned introductory workshop on Sandplay therapy had to be canceled. The two-day Rino course has also been postponed as not enough people enrolled for the spring edition. We are currently evaluating what we can do to make this course more attractive to registered psychologists and psychotherapists. In the Netherlands there is great emphasis on short-term psychotherapy and that could be one of the difficulties we will need to think about.

Theresa Foks will teach her course on children’s drawings and Sandplay therapy for playtherapists and art therapists in the fall at the same Rino regional continuing education Institute in Utrecht as in previous years.

Our two intervision groups continue to meet regularly as does the study group. Odile van Embden leads a supervision group of upcoming members who are collectively working towards ISST membership.

We are looking forward to the Board meeting this summer in Riga and are planning further activities for the fall.
DGST (The German Society of Sandplay Therapy)
President and ISST Board Representative: Joerg Rasche

In 2015 DGST did not have a national sandplay conference. Only a few DGST members attended the Ottawa conference. But we did hold several sandplay courses, among them the 3-year course of Linde von Keyserlingk and Monika Heinzel-Junger in Apfelstetten, and another 2-year course in Berlin led by Joerg Rasche. Our teaching members arranged successful one-day seminars in Stuttgart (Maria Kendler /SGSST, Ignez Carvallo, Joerg Rasche.), Munich (Anke Seitz, Vera von Braunbehrens, Deborah Bedford-Strohm), Tubingen (M. Kendler, Heidi Schmidt-Reichert), Cologne (Robert Feind, Erika Jungbluth) and Berlin. Some were actively teaching in the Ukraine and in other countries in Central and Eastern Europe (Günter Still, Thomas Mantel, Ulrike Hinsch), in Poland (J. Rasche.), and also in South Africa (Deborah Bedford-Strohm). Joerg Rasche gave a seminar in Israel and visited sandplay colleagues there (Michal Troudart, Bert Meltzer, Rina Porat).

In November, we held our annual member assembly in Stuttgart with an intensive discussion about ethical positions and concerns regarding the many war refugees in our country. Those who attended the meeting felt supported by the atmosphere of professional quality and friendship. An important issue that was again discussed is that so many child therapists use sandplay without having adequate training. In Germany psychotherapists have to fulfill requirements following the Psychotherapeutengesetz (Law for Psychotherapists) which doesn’t refer to special techniques like sandplay. Many get permission as non-medical practitioners, for example on a basis qualification as art-therapists or pedagogues. Those who have finished a Jungian analytical training, also for child analysis, seldom undergo an additional sandplay education. The result is that our society DGST has no legal position to require any qualified and certified sandplay training; it is only the high quality of the experience and training which counts. This also limits the perspective of ISST.

In the last year the political and cultural atmosphere in Germany has changed dramatically. Many refugees from the Near and Middle East and from Africa searched for shelter in Europe, and most of them finally made it to Germany. These many traumatized children and adults need special support and therapeutic assistance. Many of our members are engaged in some way in this work. At the members assembly in November 2015 we discussed the threatening open end of this endeavor, because the civil war, bombings and terror in those countries continues. Also Germany is now openly involved, with German export of weapons to these countries in 2015 even higher than in 2014. Each war destroys human and natural resources. This was one reason why for our upcoming joint Swiss-German Sandplay conference in Berlin in October 2016 we have chosen the topic: The Earth-Symbol and Living Space.

The migration movement shows us how limited the living space on earth is, and how disastrous are the current politics of many states and the abuse of natural and cultural resources. During the conference in Berlin we will have lectures about ecology, sand, and symbols of the earth, about work with refugees, and about the creation of Mandala as symbols of totality and wholeness. We will have a Mandala exhibition which shall be presented also in the framework of the Berlin C. G. Jung Association. The conference will be attended by Swiss and German qualified sandplay therapists, and also by trainees from Austria, Poland, Latvia and Ukraine. We hope that our conference will help to transcend the newly reappeared mental boundaries between European people.
THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING AN ISST BOARD MEMBER

The ISST Board is made up of representatives of each of the 11 National Societies affiliated with ISST & Jungian-Kalffian Sandplay. The Board meets once yearly. After 8 years of serving on the Board, Maria Ellen Chiaia looks back on her time as representative of STA, her National Society.

Maria Ellen Chiaia, Treasurer, and then ISST Representative (term ending June 2016)

The ISST Board- an International Forum for Jungian Sandplay

I served on the ISST board as treasurer and then as the ISST Representative for STA/United States for eight years. Serving on the board has been a rich and rewarding experience, life changing, as I have been opened up and transformed by being part of an international community. On the board, I particularly enjoyed working with colleagues from around the world, becoming more knowledgeable and respectful of cultural differences and similarities and then focusing on ways to resolve the conflicts that arose. Sometimes that entailed making compromises, accepting only some of what was needed by the members of my country and then waiting until a more appropriate time to achieve more of those changes. I found all of this challenging and exciting and was amazed at the caring and concern we all had for each other and our work. We were and continue to be a good working group.

Board Meetings, International Training Weeks, Conferences

During my eight-year tenure on the board, I had the opportunity to attend two board meetings in developing countries (no international Jungian or Sandplay societies), Bulgaria and Poland and then to stay on and teach in two different week-long intensives. I also participated in board meetings and/or conferences in Holland, England, Japan, Switzerland, Italy and Canada, ending my tenure by putting on an international congress in Ottawa working collaboratively with three other colleagues, two from Canada and one from the U.S.

International Sandplay Teaching

From all these experiences, I also learned about the special needs of students from different countries for training and learning and how to figure out a way for ISST as an organization to support these students and to meet their needs. I met many people and began to teach internationally, getting to know about culture and history through the psyches of the patients I was being exposed to in consultation, doing Sandplay and sometimes in analysis. What a wonderful way to know the outer world, by glimpsing into the inner world of the other. I became a special friend and teacher to the students of Romania going there three times as well as consulting with a number of them on Skype and assisting them to meet qualifications for certification. I went to Taiwan to do sandplay, to teach and consult then continued on Skype with some of the students from Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong. In August I will be going to Mainland China. All of this has been wonderful and as I stated before life changing.

Sandplay and the Evolving World Soul

The most meaningful and satisfying of all has been to get to know students, consultees and colleagues by the sharing of the psycho-spiritual work we are all engaged in and then from here to go on and form deep and lasting friendships/soul connections all over the globe. I feel blessed to have had these experiences and I feel we are all blessed to be part of this small but vast network and organization. Our work throughout the world makes a difference and contributes to the evolving world soul.
THE ROLE OF THE
ISST NATIONAL SOCIETY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

The basic task of the Board representative (BR) is to initiate, to modulate, to support and to maintain the mutual perception and communication between the national society (NS) that he/she represents and ISST. All activities of the Board Representative (BR) have to serve the main task of conducting the relationship between NS and ISST and will have to be adapted to the particular situation and needs of the NS:

Responsibilities towards the National Society:
☐ The BR is elected by the NS for a period of 4 years and can be re-elected for another term of 4 years. He/she keeps well informed about the current situation of the NS, participates actively in their assemblies and closely collaborates with the Board of the NS in order to represent his/her NS in an effective way. ☐ The BR confers with NS members about proposals that they wish to bring to the ISST Board meeting for discussion. He/she is sensitive to the needs of the NS members and represents their view at the ISST level. ☐ The BR collects information from activities in the NS (membership, conferences, training, website, local issues, etc.) and compiles a report about the yearly activities of the NS. ☐ The BR makes sure that the members of the NS are informed about the basic functioning and role of ISST as an international organization and ensures that the new members and training candidates are familiarized with essential information about ISST (receive booklets with statutes). ☐ The BR communicates to the members of the NS the important aspects of discussions during the Board meetings and informs them after the minutes have been made public about the new decisions made during the Board meeting (current issues of the organization, rules, congresses etc.). Confidentiality of the Board discussions has to be respected. He/she forwards important papers and documents that are developed by the ISST Board, eventually translated into the language of the NS. ☐ The BR informs the NS treasurer about administrative procedures and changes in the financial protocol of ISST.

Responsibilities related to the Board meeting
☐ The BR attends the Board meeting on a yearly basis (or finds a representative if unavailable). ☐ A report about the yearly activities of the NS is presented to the Board (sent to the secretary in advance of the Board meeting). ☐ The BR brings requests and special concerns of the NS to the agenda of the Board meeting. The BR explains and discusses the position of the NS in order to find understanding and respect for the local situation. ☐ The BR collects proxies from the members of the NS who are unable to attend the General Assembly (every 2 years, at the ISST Congress).

Responsibilities towards ISST
☐ The BR tries to be culturally sensitive and open to views from an international level while bringing NS needs to the level of ISST. This requires “being a container” for balancing differences, bring a potential solution forth from the NS to the ISST Board for discussion as well as bringing back views from an international context to the NS. ☐ The BR informs members of the NS about current conditions, structures and activities of other national societies in order to reinforce the sensitivity for the international context of ISST. ☐ The BR answers e-mails from the ISST Secretary, Treasurer or President and takes part in email discussions throughout the year. ☐ Contributes news from the NS for the ISST Newsletter twice yearly. ☐ Advertises international congresses and ITWs to local membership and students ☐ Serves on a chosen ISST committee if needed. Some of the committees are ongoing, others are built ad hoc. ☐ If a NS decides to host the ISST congress, the BR chairs the committee of organization of the Congress and informs the Board about the project. If the Congress makes a profit, the BR presents a national project to the Board for approval to use parts of the funds.

This job description was composed and agreed by the ISST Board in Ottawa 2015.
Guidelines for the Contents of a Final Sandplay Case Study
Developed by the ISST Board (Venice 2013)

*30 – 50 pages of text (clear pictures of the whole tray, including the boundaries of the tray, should be presented in a separate file).
*The therapist must declare that he/she received the signed consent of the patient or his parents to use the patients material to write this case.
*Confidentiality must be respected.
*The case study presents the whole therapeutic process which must be completely concluded. The candidate must demonstrate his/her understanding of the depth of the Sandplay process. The number of trays should be sufficient to show the development and transformation of the symbolic process.

Contents:
Introduction:
*Presentation of the setting, number of sessions, number of pictures and other general circumstances of the therapeutic process
*Theoretical framework and the therapist’s approach to the work; description of the methods that are used in therapy
*Anamneseis (personal and family history of the patient)
*Detailed description of the patient’s symptoms and diagnostic appraisal
*Psychodynamic reflections about the patient’s situation, linking past history and current problems
*Describe patient’s goal and expectations for therapy

Exact description of each Sandpicture in two parts:
1) Clear description of the therapeutic session and process of construction of each Sandpicture (dry/wet sand; how the sand was manipulated; in which order the objects are used / placed in the sand; the relation of the objects to each other. Report the client’s comments. Through this description, the reader must get a vivid impression of the whole picture and the creation process.
2) Analysis/ interpretation of the Sandpicture based on the former description. Symbols should be interpreted in the context of the therapeutic situation and the particular case, using references to e.g. alchemy, fairy tales and mythology, clearly connected to the clinical material presented. Kalffian and Jungian concepts should guide the interpretation. Other theoretical backgrounds can be introduced if they are part of the therapist’s training or particularly useful for understanding.

*Transference and counter-transference dynamics shall be included. Describe how the ‘free and protected space“ was maintained.
*Integrate Sandplay literature and other theoretical sources in a consistent way.
*Link the therapeutic process to the actual life of the patient and other data such as dreams, outer life, past experiences, family problems, physical conditions.
*After the description of the pictures: review of the process and its evolution throughout the series of pictures. What happened in terms of psychodynamic evolution / psychological growth / individuation? Demonstrate the ability to summarize the Sandplay process in a way that makes sense as a meaningful inner process. Describe how the results of the Sandplay process were integrated in the client’s life.

Mechanics: The paper has to meet professional writing standards, including logical structure and professionally referenced material. It must be well written with correct spelling, sentence structure, and grammar.
Add Bibliography of references that were used with relevance throughout the text.
ISST RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair: Denise Ramos, Ph.D (ISST Vice -President for the Americas)

Collection of Symbol Paper Abstracts

We would like to inform all ISST members that the ISST Research Committee is now gathering a collection of abstracts of symbol papers from our members to be published in a special section of the ISST website.

To all ISST members who are willing to share their work:

Please send complete information in English, including your name, your email address, the name of the symbol paper, and the abstract, in 500 words maximum.

Our goal is that readers who are interested in a particular symbol can contact the writer and ask for the complete paper that they want to read. This collection of abstracts of our members symbol papers will enable us to have access to very useful, precious and international data that many times are kept and forgotten on the shelves of our institutes.

Please, send your data to deniseramos@uol.com.br

Thank you!

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Appendix D, the application for certified membership, is now in PDF format and can be found on the ISST web-site in three languages: English, German and Italian. The application can be filled out via computer, rather than by hand, and emailed to the ISST Secretary, after completion of membership requirements.

isst.sandplaysociety@gmail.com

To all ISST members:

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

Hilary Vaughan, ISST Administrator

isst.sandplaysociety@gmail.com