

ISST NEWSLETTER

July 2024 Issue 22, Volume 12 Number 1



ISST
sandplay

International Society for Sandplay Therapy
Associazione Internazionale della Sandplay Therapy
Internationale Gesellschaft für Sandspiel Therapie
國際箱庭療法学会

July 2024



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SANDPLAY THERAPY

The ISST Newsletter provides information about the ISST organization and ISST Sandplay Therapy as developed by our founder Dora Kalff. It aims to facilitate communication between all ISST members and to provide access to current research, events, and educational opportunities around the world in the field of Sandplay Therapy.

ISST encourages the highest quality of ISST Sandplay therapy practice from ISST Certified sandplay therapists and represents more than 400 certified members from 18 Member Societies and other Individual Members around the world.

Please visit our website for information about education and training in ISST Sandplay:

www.isst-society.com

ISST Working Group Newsletter

Production – Editor

Ulrich Gundermann

Consulting Editors

Amanda Bechtel

Debbie Mego

ISST President

Takuji Natori

ISST Vice-Presidents

Audrey Punnett

Maria Kendler

Sungkyu Lee (Sam)

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Betty Jackson

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ISST sandplay International Society for Sandplay Therapy
Associazione Internazionale della Sandplay Therapy
Internationale Gesellschaft für Sandspiel Therapie
国际箱庭療法学会

Announces:

Intensive Training Weeks in Sandplay

Week 1: November 4 - 10, 2024
Week 2: November 18 - 24, 2024

Hotel Londres Estoril
Estoril, Portugal

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Message from the ISST President

Takuji Natori

How to sense the value of a stone: *from the unforgettable words of an experienced driver (2)*

“It is very simple and easy. A good stone looks bigger and feels heavier than its physical size and weight.”

I introduced the driver who shared this quote with me in my newsletter from September 2022. I was very lucky to have a chance to learn from his rich experience and wisdom. As I wrote last time, he was a professional driver of the official car of a hospital where I worked as a lecturer of psychology in its professional school for medical nurses.

One day we talked about our hobbies. He had been enthusiastic in collecting stones for Bon-seki (stone tray), a traditional art of appreciating natural stones, setting one stone on a lacquer tray. For this hobby, he frequently travelled in search of nice stones in the mountains and riversides. He wandered around from morning to sunset on weekends and holidays. I said to him, *“Surely it must be very hard work to hike in the mountains and hills for such a long time.”* He replied, *“Yes, it is. But what is hardest for me is the fatigue of my eyes.”* In order to find a good stone, he must keep his eyes open as long as possible with keen attention on the ground. He said, *“Nowadays, it is very difficult to find a good one because there are many stone collectors like me. Most of the good stones have been found and already taken by such collectors. This is why I need to go into the deep forest or*

riverside to find a nice stone still undiscovered.”

When he found a good one, it was sold at an auction market for the collectors. I naively asked him, “Are there any clues to discern a good stone from ordinary ones?” He smiled and said, “You see, all such traditional arts, Bon-seki, Bon-sai, pottery, etc., share the common principle of value and beauty. You surely won’t make a mistake if you know this principle. Actually, it is very simple and easy. A good stone looks bigger and feels heavier than its physical size and weight. Similarly, a good picture, object, etc. feels greater than its physical being. In essence, a good stone makes you feel and imagine the universe.” Listening to his words, a black stone on a black lacquer tray, standing like a steep mountain, shining with moisture and floating in the universe, came to my mind.

When I was writing this article, I happened to watch a TV documentary of NHK about a team at the Japanese post office, specialized in designing the postage stamps. The senior chief officer, well known as an excellent designer, mentioned how he gives advice to his younger colleagues: A well-designed postage stamp surely feels heavier when you put it on your palm.

I was very glad to again hear the expression of the wisdom distilled from rich the experiences of the masters.

It reminds me of the introduction of Dora Kalff’s book:

The Circle is not only a geometric form, but also a symbol that lets something — invisible but alive in people — emerge into the light. Symbols give voice to implicit, energy-charged images that emerge from deep patterns in human nature, which, when they become manifest, influence human development. (Kalff, 1966/2020, p.4)

When something bears symbolic meaning, it too may feel somewhat more than its physical appearance.



Photograph by Takuji Natori, 2024

Reference

Kalff, D. M. (Trans. Matthews, B.L.) (1966/2020) *Sandplay: A Psychotherapeutic Approach to the Psyche*. Analytical Psychology Press: Sandplay Editions.

Activities of ISST and New Board Representatives

Among many activities of ISST Committees and Working Groups, one big step toward the future of ISST was the publication of the first issue of the **International Journal of Jungian Sandplay Therapy** in February 2024. The **2024 ITW in Portugal** has many registrations for the two Intensive Weeks. The **27th ISST Congress in the Netherlands**, Changing Horizons: Encountering the Other in Sandplay Therapy, will be held from 18th to 22nd August 2025. The activities of the Committees and Working Groups are made possible by the dedicated effort of the members. We can learn more about these activities through the Website, Newsletter, the Minutes of the Board Meeting, and the regular report from the Committee and Working Groups.

We have three new Board Representatives since November 2023. Dr. Cai Chenghou (Michael) has replaced Dr. Heyong Shen (CSST, from BM February 2024), Dr. Mariana S. Taliba Chalfon has replaced Mrs. Lucia Azevedo (IBTS, from BM May 2024). Ms. Sylvia Simonyi-Elmer has returned as the new Board Representative of CAST (from BM May 2024). I sincerely appreciate the contributions of Heyong Shen-san and Lucia Azevedo-san.

I'm thankful to Maria Iosue-san of CAST, who worked for exchange between the ISST Board and CAST in the period of absence of their Board Member.

[Note: "-san" is a suffix for showing respect to a person in Japanese. Please allow me to use this expression.]

Takuji Natori

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

Links to the Member Societies websites as shown on the homepage of the ISST-website



There are **Individual Members (IM)** in the following countries:

Belgium, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore and Uruguay.
 (info: isst.office@gmail.com)

AISPT Italian Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Vito La Spina

ISST Board Representative: Maria Elisabetta Quaglino

BISS British & Irish Society for Sandplay Therapy

President; co-chairs: Natasha Salter-Ling and Judy Filmore

Board Representative: Natasha Salter-Ling

CAST Canadian Association for Sandplay Therapy

CAST administrator: Rachel Harris

Board Representative: Sylvia Simonyi-Elmer

CSST Chinese Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Cai Chenghou

ISST Board Representative: Cai Chenghou

DGST German Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Ulrich Gwinner

Board representative: Ulrich Gundermann

HKSTA Hong Kong Sandplay Therapy Association

President and ISST Board Representative: Sally Chan Shook Yim

IBTS The Brazilian Institute for Sandplay Therapy

President: Dr. Mariana Taliba Chalfon

Board Representative: Dr. Mariana Taliba Chalfon

ISTA The Israeli Sandplay Therapists Association

President: Robin B. Zeiger

ISST Board Representative: Bert Meltzer

JISST Japan Society for ISST Members

President: Yasunobu Okada

ISST Board Representative: Yasuhiro Suzuki

KAST Korean Association of Sandplay Therapy

President: Sr. Hyerim Kim (Cecilia)

ISST Board Representatives: Sr. Hyerim Kim (Cecilia) & Boyoung Kwon (Christina)

KSST Korean Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Sanghee Lee

ISST Board Representative: Aekyu Park

LSST Latvian Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Līga Rāviņa

ISST Board Representative: Vera Ščerbakova

NVST Dutch Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Jellemieke Hees-Stauthamer

Board Representative: Theresa Foks-Appelman

SASTS South African Sandplay Therapy Society

President: Braam Beetge, **Vice-President:** Retha Roux

ISST Board Representative: Braam Beetge

SGSST Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Maria Kendler, **vice-president:** Alexandra Moser Nura

ISST Board Representative: Viola Scheller

STA Sandplay Therapists of America

President: David Dermott, **Vice-President:** Jacquelyn Kelley

ISST Board Representatives: Lorraine Freedle and Jacquelyn Kelley

STANZA Sandplay Therapists of Australia/New Zealand

President: Heather Lesley-Swan

ISST Board Representatives: Heather Lesley-Swan

TSST Taiwanese Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Min Li Chiou

ISST Board Representative: Pi Ling Chen

Contributions from Individual Members

Board Representative Individual Members: Marina Ionescu

Substitute: Marianne Mobeck

AISPT Italian Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Vito La Spina

ISST Board Representative: Maria Elisabetta Quaglino

Report by: Maria Elisabetta Quaglino

At the present time, AISPT counts **47 members**; **34** of them are **ISST Members** and **4** are also **ISST Teaching Members**.

Currently, the Board Members are:

President – Vito La Spina

Vice-President – Mariella Saletti

Treasurer – Patrizia Vittorioso

Counsellors – Paola Rocco and Anna Sampaolo

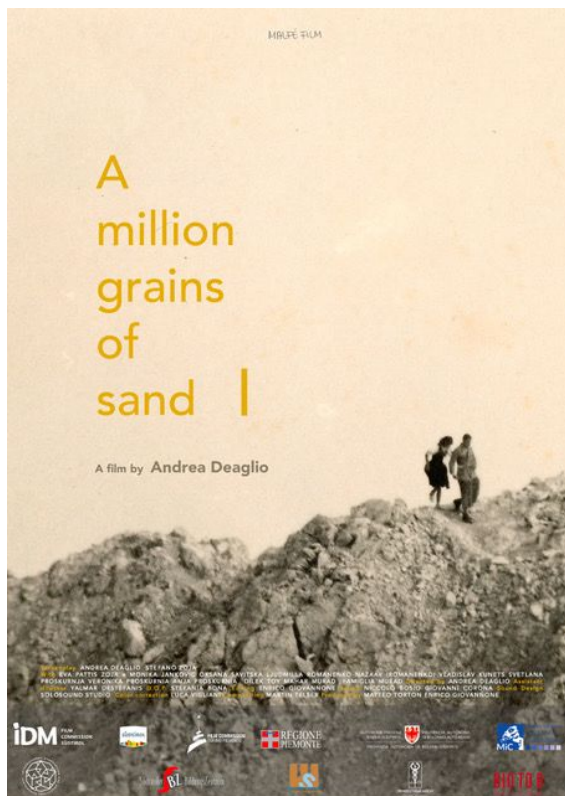
In this newsletter I will give a brief update about all AISPT activities that are in progress at the present time, thanks to the efforts of our Training Committee and our associates.

In addition to Open Days to introduce AISPT Training Programmes, the Research Groups, “The Use of Stones in Sandplay Therapy” and “The Therapist Sight on the Patient’s Images” are still meeting and carrying on their work. Also, the series of conferences entitled “Lo studiolo dell’alchimista” (“The Alchemist Study”) is continuing online with very interesting topics that allow participants to deepen their knowledge of Sandplay Therapy and look at images of sandtrays, connecting theory and practice through clinical examples. This time, the cycle has been organized choosing two speakers for each conference, one “senior” AISPT member and a “junior” one; this gives younger members the opportunity to challenge themselves, and both have had the chance to work together and share knowledge and points of view on a common topic.

Our **annual meeting** in Florence took place in December 2023 and was an occasion for all members, as well as students of the Training Programmes who completed their training hours, to share case studies and be together for two entire days. This time, the purpose of the meeting was to focus on the topics of destructiveness, violence and aggressiveness, the suffering and pain we are living worldwide nowadays, and to meditate on how these feelings are experienced and brought into the therapy room, how they can be transformed through the images created in the sandtray.

This meeting also led to the idea of organizing an AISPT Congress for 2025, which has been planned for March 28-30, 2025, with the title “Violence, destructiveness, aggressive energy: a chance for transformation through Sandplay Therapy”.

Last but not least, the result of years of work by our associate **Dr. Eva Pattis Zoja** has finally been released: “A Million Grains of Sand”, a precious, deep, and touching documentary film, directed by Andrea Deaglio, had its World Premiere in Bologna last June. It tells the story of all the patients affected by wars and natural disasters with whom Eva Pattis Zoja has worked in her emergency interventions throughout her life, and how trauma has a chance of healing through the sand.



You can watch the trailer and read more about the film here:

<https://www.malfe.it/it/film/un-milione-di-granelli-di-sabbia/>

and here:

<http://sandwork.org/images/>

A_MILLION_GRAINS_OF_SAND_PRESSBOOK.pdf .

We are grateful to Eva Pattis Zoja for such an important testament to her massive work and its immeasurable value.

A Million Grains of Sand

On the table in psychotherapist Eva Pattis' office sits a container of sand. Her fingers glide across a shelf lined with miniature objects: food items, houses, trees, animals, humans, armed men dressed in black, large spiders, and a little prince. Eva packs the miniatures into a suitcase before embarking on a journey.

"Where we live, there is nothing left. They shoot at night, but I don't hear them because I'm asleep."

"The terrorists locked our daughters and wives in a car and killed all the men."

These are some of the stories of Eva Pattis' patients, victims of war, violence, and natural disasters. In the method Eva has developed, **Expressive Sandwork**, there is no space for words. Psychological trauma is a fracture that prevents feelings from emerging and narratives from flowing.

The images that arise from the miniatures placed in the sand heal the trauma: a Barbie doll surrounded by snakes, a seashell inhabited by spiders, a boat on a sea of fabric with people floating all around, a unicorn and a fairy on a path made of marbles.

Eva suffers from nightmares and migraines. Her patients' sand images blend with those of history and her personal life. She too is in search of an image: one that, within a box among old letters and photographs, hides and reveals the choices of her life. Because trauma is never just an individual matter; it is transmitted between generations and reflected in history.

BISS British & Irish Society for Sandplay Therapy

President; co-chairs: Natasha Salter-Ling and Judy Filmore

Board Representative: Natasha Salter-Ling

Circles of Sand and Stone by Natasha Salter-Ling

During the past year BISS has continued with our popular webinars and storytelling group, however unfortunately it was not possible to run our training due to a low number of applicants. Efforts continue within BISS to promote the training and support our current trainees through to certification, thus increasing the numbers of ISST certified sandplay therapists for those interested in doing sandplay processes. BISS has been very busy with our **conference in Cumbria** in June. With the theme of 'Facing the Dragon – Transformation in Turbulent Times' attendees were treated to a rich mixture of Dragon material, both as it emerged in clients' sandplay but also in the collective unconscious, through myth, religion, alchemy and story. With trainees and BISS members from Ireland, England, Denmark and Malta and ISST presenters who travelled from the Netherlands and Barcelona I felt the conference shone with both a uniquely BISS and International light.

As the dust settles after the conference and we prepare for our AGM, we look forward to what the rest of the year will bring. Two special moments during the conference reminded one of the grounding and embodiment inherent in the experience of sandplay therapy. The first in the drumming workshop 'summoning the dragon' in which the deep vibrations resounded and connected us in the circle in which we sat, and secondly on the last day in a spontaneous visit to a local stone circle in the hills. Some of us lay on the ground or sat on the grass supported by the ancient stones. Others sang together.

By chance I found writing by R Harris (Pacifica Institute, 2011) in which he draws our attention to the relation between stone circles and sandplay therapy. As he writes "Both stone circles and sandplay are rooted in rituals where the natural world was, and is, honoured and where human relationships between people work with the symbolic world to provide meaning" (p113). A fitting end to our conference where BISS and ISST members on different points in their journey in sandplay therapy came together.



Reflections on the BISS Conference by Judy Filmore

This BISS conference was held in my hometown of Ulverston close to the Lake District, the theme apt as there is a local legend of a dragon sleeping under nearby Hoar Hill. To open, a local musician introduced the delegates to a variety of drums and together an explosive sound alerted the sleeping dragon that we had arrived! It was an excellent way of creating an energy in the group which could be harnessed for the more

serious business of learning in Jungian sandplay therapy.

On Saturday we began with a presentation from Maggie Baron (BISS/ISST/FCR) entitled *Enter the Dragon: Elemental, Material, Imaginal* and how the dragon enters our sandplays. Maggie skillfully elucidated Jungian theory and gave us interesting, concrete examples of the use of dragons in sandplay. Theresa Foks-Appelman (NVST/ISST) was our keynote speaker and gave a fascinating presentation of *Facing the Dragon* with a thorough look at what that can mean for those who engage with sandplay therapy and use the symbol of the dragon. After lunch, Moira Hood (BISS Trainee) took us through a creative process of the “Hero’s Journey” where we drew images of the different stages. This exercise caught me unaware with an unconscious process evoked through art - a reminder of the power of the unconscious. A transformative process followed in Moira Hood’s moving presentation where the serpent became a symbol of healing and wholeness for a young boy. The last presentation of the day introduced us to the *Minecraft* (a popular video game) dragon and other figures as used by a child in sandplay therapy. Natasha Salter-Ling (Co-Chair BISS) illustrated how the most modern dragon brings about healing. At the close of day Natasha also introduced a papier-mâché cave filled with dragons of all shapes and sizes. Her instructions were for each delegate to enter the cave reaching to search inside for a dragon. The emerging dragon was examined and returned to the cave with a written note attached - an intriguing exercise that brought out our playfulness. I witnessed smiling faces as people examined their dragon and it was interesting to note that people did not want to put the dragon back into the cave. Sunday brought an engaging look at the dragon “A Journey from West to East....and Back again” with James Barker (BISS/ISST). He delved into the depths of theology with a

quiz which whet my appetite to explore stories found in the Bible. The presentation was alive and relevant – some powerful imagery which will stay with me forever. Our last presentation by TM’s Lin Ye (ISST) & Shu-Chiung Lin (ISST) explored a model of experiencing the sandplay world from multiple angles. There was so much material to digest and explore – for me we need a future webinar to engage with the ideas that came from this reflective work. Of course, the cave needed to be re-visited. This time we reached into the cave again and felt for another dragon. The emergent dragon became ours with the note from another delegate attached. A lovely way to end our Conference – sending each other a meaningful message. And yet, there is one more dragon! Maggie designed a beautiful drawing of a dragon, where we added reflections, and feelings about the dragon at the beginning of the conference (on papers placed near the head) and then again at the end (near the tail). Of course, each paper became a scale of the dragon – both ingenious and inspirational! Finally, we held a trip to the **Manjushri Buddhist centre** where Dora Kalff taught Jungian sandplay therapy in the 1970’s. I found the whole experience calming and enriching for the soul.

This conference took much time to organize, and many people were part of that journey, but I am pleased that we did it for the richness of the presentations, the warmth of the delegates and the connections that were forged.



CAST Canadian Association for Sandplay Therapy

CAST Administrator: Rachel Harris

ISST Communications: Maria Iosue

Content Prepared by: CAST Executive

Committee (Maria Iosue, Sylvia Simonyi-Elmer, Carmen Oprea, Jennifer Leaf) & Administrator (Rachel Harris)

CAST Disability Round Table

The Disability Round Table (DRT) is a CAST working committee that began meeting in 2023, inspired by the CAST 2021 conference presentation “Free and Protected Space for Therapists and Clients with Disabilities” by Nathalie Tremblay.



*At the picture: **DRT committee members:***

Left Top row - Dawna Lee, Maria Iosue

Left Middle row – Nathalie Paradis Tremblay, Nicole Balan Bruder

Left Bottom row - Dean Diamond (preferred internet image), Debbie Kuan

The working committee meets monthly to engage in an ongoing and productive dialogue on the topics of inclusion and accessibility.

Our recent focus was to develop and revise value statements that serve as guiding principles for CAST as an organization and for each individual member. We are delighted to share the results of our work with the sandplay community.

The committee's intention is to strengthen the capacity of our sandplay community to carry out its activities in an inclusive and accessible manner, one that honors diversity and recognizes disabilities both visible and invisible. As CAST affirms its commitment to values of inclusion and accessibility, each professional member is encouraged and empowered to extend these principles to their work with clients.

New and Revised Statements of Values

The committee has formulated several new statements and modified some existing ones. All the work has been reviewed and approved by the CAST board, and is now posted on the CAST website.

Land Acknowledgment (New) - View on the website: Home, About CAST

CAST acknowledges that the land we occupy known as Turtle Island is the homeland of Indigenous peoples including First Nations, Inuit and Métis. CAST recognizes the ongoing impacts of colonization of all Indigenous peoples and supports Indigenous-led efforts to decolonize and reclaim Indigeneity.

Values Statement: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (New) - View on the website: About CAST

CAST acknowledges systemic and cultural structures that privilege certain groups, and the

potential for discriminatory and oppressive values to penetrate the field of Counseling/Therapy/Psychotherapy.

We commit to respecting and honouring the diverse histories, languages, cultures and experiences of Indigenous peoples including First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

We extend this respect and honour to the diversity in our community and in our practices that includes but is not limited to race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability both visible and invisible, neurodivergence, socio-economic status, class or religion.

We are committed to creating an inclusive environment that brings together diverse perspectives from our students, teaching members, board members, and members of our community. Together we strive to advance excellence in clinical practice and teaching in the field of Sandplay Therapy in ways that are equitable, diverse, accessible and inclusionary. We place human rights and dignity at the centre of our educational initiatives, and promote adherence to these values in the practices of our members.

Revisions to CAST Guidelines for Professional Practice Points 13-15 and CAST's Purpose can also be viewed on the website:

Membership: Values, Ethics and Regulation and About CAST

CAST Member Survey

Members of the DRT also came forward to volunteer time to the Member Survey initiative, a project to help us understand the experiences and views of our members, especially our trainees. We recognize that though our membership has grown in size, the number of certified therapists and practitioners remain small. To guide us in steering the future direction of the organization, a working committee created the **CAST Member Survey**

to gather information about possible challenges or barriers our trainees may face, as well as to hear from our more senior members.

We also hope to learn what our members have gained and valued from their CAST training and membership experiences, and inform our ongoing work toward inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility. The completely anonymous survey is currently open for completion by CAST members.

CSST Chinese Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Cai Chenghou

ISST Board Representative: Cai Chenghou

Report by: He Jingyu, Wu Yan,
Cai Baohong

A. Conference on Sandplay Therapy

From December 8 to 10, 2023, the 14th Conference on Analytical Psychology and Sandplay Therapy was successfully held in Qingdao, known as the Eastern Switzerland. Psychologists, Jungian analysts, Sandplay therapists, and Chinese cultural scholars from around the world gathered to explore the theme “Heartfelt Influence and Transformation”. Through various lenses including Analytical Psychology, Sandplay Therapy, art and psyche, and ecology and environment, the conference delved deeply into the reflections on contemporary social changes and cultural transformations. It also explored how we can achieve adaptation and peace of mind, healing and transformation, respect and cherish nature, uphold human dignity, and elevate the realm of the soul.

There were keynote speeches, thematic speeches, concurrent sessions, and Garden of the Heart and Soul special exchanges, especially including Sandplay Therapy Workshops. Esteemed professionals like Betty Jackson, Theresa Foks-Appelman, Joe Cambray, Eva Pattis Zoja, SHEN Heyong, GAO Lan, CAI Chenghou, FENG Jianguo, and LIANG Jingye, along with many ISST and CSST members and candidates, contributed to this memorable and enriching conference.

During the conference, we also held the CSST members' meeting and conducted elections. **Dr. Cai Chenghou** was elected as the **President of CSST**, with **Dr. Yin Fang** as Vice President and **Dr. Cai Baohong** as Secretary-General.





B. 34th Anniversary Memorial Lecture for Dora Kalff

To commemorate Dora Kalff's immense contribution to Sandplay Therapy and to inspire Chinese Sandplay Therapists to continue her legacy, CSST held a public lecture titled "Kalff and Sandplay Therapy: 34th Anniversary Memorial Lecture for Dora Kalff" on January 15. The lecture featured esteemed guests, including former CSST President SHEN Heyong, President CAI Chenghou, and Vice President YIN Fang, with Secretary-General CAI Baohong as the host.



C. Academic Lectures

Since January 2024, CSST has hosted six specialized lectures open to its members and led by CSST members. These lectures covered themes such as images, the shadow, and the Self in Sandplay Therapy. They provided a platform for academic exchange among Sandplay Therapists while also enhancing the professional training of our members.

D. Society Development

In the first half of 2024, we welcomed two new applicants as CSST candidates. We organized seven mid-term assessments to evaluate their progress and conducted three final evaluations, successfully admitting **DUAN Yaping**, **LUO Jihua**, and **JIA Yunjiao** as certified members. Additionally, ISST/CSST certified member **LIANG Jingye** was accepted as teaching member.

E. Member Spotlight

To better showcase the efforts and contributions of our members and to foster their development, CSST has launched the column of "Member Spotlight". This feature highlights the diverse achievements of our members, including clinical practice in Sandplay Therapy, academic research, teaching, and community & public service applications. Through articles, photos, and videos, we aim to present their contributions to the field of Sandplay Therapy and promote deeper exchanges among our community. So far, we have interviewed four of them.

DGST German Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Ulrich Gwinner

Board representative: Ulrich Gundermann

Report by: Ulrich Gundermann

The DGST Board has recently been working a lot on how to recruit new members and how we can get more candidates to graduate as Sandplay therapists. Together with the SGSST, the DGST organizes an online lecture twice a year entitled "Insights into Sandplay therapy", which should be of interest to anyone interested in Sandplay, particularly those for whom Sandplay is still largely unknown. In February, Rut Boss-Baumann gave a lecture on "Fullness and emptiness in the sandbox - development or stagnation?" Jörg Rasche will speak in the fall.



The board of the DGST met for its board meeting in Franconia; here they can be seen in Bamberg, standing together on Sand Road.

The DGST teaching members are active both nationally and internationally:

Anke Seitz: Teaching activities (in person and online):

- Personal processes, only in person
- National and international individual supervision
- National and international group supervision
- National and international Jungian lectures and Sandplay Therapy seminars
- Reader and advisor of international final case papers

Ignez Carvalho Hartmann: Germany: private psychotherapy practice, seminars at the Institute for Analytical Psychotherapy for Children and Adolescents in Heidelberg and at the C.G.Jung Gesellschaft Freiburg.

USA: Seminar at C.G. Jung Institute Los Angeles.

Brazil: Seminars and supervision at the Anima Instituto in S. Paulo.

Thomas Mantel: September 2023 online-lecture for DGST and ISST: Male search for identity and ego-development, Sandplay therapy course of a young man in heavy adolescent crisis with presentation of developmental psychological aspects. Sandplay therapy Seminars at the C.G. Jung Society in Konstanz, supervision, personal process.

The DGST Board thanked Thomas Mantel with a hydrangea for his commitment as DGST representative on the ISST Board from 2016 - 2023. The hydrangea has grown well on the outer edge of the terrace and is currently blooming magnificently



Günter Still: two supervision groups, offering self-awareness and supervision, two one-day seminars a year with different speakers.

Ulrich Gwinner: In addition to supervision for training candidates, a two-day event in Riga (Latvia) with a seminar and supervision. More than 100 Latvian colleagues were present on the seminar day, and that with a total population of just 1.3 million!

Ulrich Gwinner and Ulrich Gundermann started a training course in Sandplay therapy together in March. This is scheduled to last 2 1/2 years. Of the 10 planned weekends, 3 have already taken place. There were also co-teaching opportunities.

Ulrich Gundermann: holds Sandplay seminars at the C.G. Jung Institute Stuttgart and at the C.G. Jung Society Freiburg; he offers process and supervision.

Research: The importance of relationship for sandplay processes - On the way to a sandplay study

"How is it possible to approach the significance of relationship in therapeutic sandplay processes for children and adolescents?"

This is the question posed by a group of scientifically interested analysts from Germany and Austria (*Anke Seitz participates from DGST*). They meet online every 2-3 months in an open-ended discourse to exchange personal experiences with therapeutic sandplay, look at material together and search for suitable research instruments.

The common aim of the group is to scientifically record symbolic, interpersonal and intrapsychic forces in their interaction with each other and to derive possible conclusions for the significance of the effective factor relationship in therapeutic sandplay.

The idea for this sandplay study was presented at the 10th INFAP3 research day on Creativity in Psychotherapy, and the group is still working on a suitable study design.

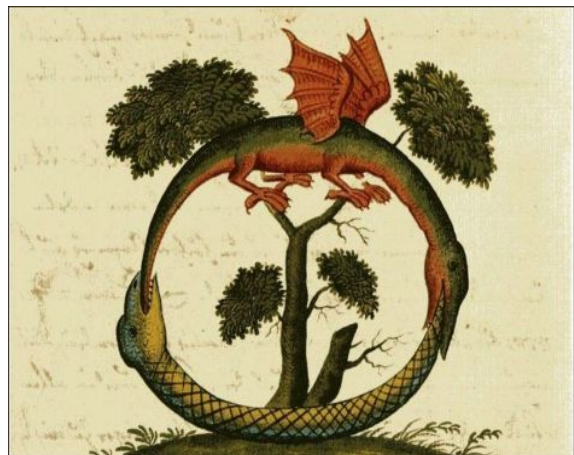
HKSTA Hong Kong Sandplay Therapy Association

President and ISST Board Representative: Sally Chan Shook Yim

Report from Sally Shook Yim Chan

2024 was the fourteenth anniversary of the formation of our association. HKSTA passed through the unstable and uncertain year of thirteen. The number thirteen indicates the arrival of a new unknown cycle, but it is also a transformation, the death (the end of cycle) and a renewal. There are many changes and challenges that HKSTA Executive Committee needs to consider regarding the development of HKSTA, as a small society of ISST, in the long run. After darkness, lightness comes although it is still unclear. We work hard to focus on three things: (1) promoting Sandplay Therapy workshops and reaching out to the helping professionals who may interest in Sandplay Therapy and recruiting new members in order to replace some HKSTA members who have already migrated to other countries; (2) Strongly encouraging more well-experienced HKSTA members to become Certified Sandplay Therapists through a **ISST Sandplay Therapist Candidate Support Group** with the facilitation and support of HKSTA Honorary Adviser, Dr. Amy Leung. This group meets once every two months in order to provide help and support for the Candidates to finish their Symbol Papers and Final Case Study; (3) very important too, encouraging those who are ISST certified Sandplay Therapists to become ISST Teaching Members. As some Teaching Members in HKSTA move to semi-retirement and migrate to other countries we need to have an adequate number of HKSTA Teaching Members to provide workshops and supervision for the long term development of HKSTA.

In February and March 2024, we offered two **workshops**. 5Ws in Sandplay Therapy Training and Alchemy and the Sandplay Process: Opus of Transformation. The first was both, an interactive webinar workshop and in-person experiential workshop, offered by two of HKSTA members, Dr. Ruby Mui and Ms. Berenice Lee to provide the practical considerations and guidelines for mental health professionals who are at the beginning stage in using Sandplay Therapy with clients. The second was an online interactive workshop provided by Ms. Betty Jackson, to help the participants understand alchemy concepts in the Sandplay process and become aware of the correspondence between alchemical phases of transformation, Sandplay process, and Jung's concept of individuation. In addition, we continue to hold our **study group online** each month in order to promote the interest in Jungian Sandplay Therapy.



IBTS The Brazilian Institute for Sandplay Therapy

President: Dr. Mariana Taliba Chalfon

Board Representative: Dr. Mariana S. Taliba Chalfon

Report by: Dr. Mariana S. Taliba Chalfon

IBTS Board 2024 - 2026

President: Mariana Taliba Chalfon

Treasurer: Maria Irene Crespo e Maria Helena Balthazar

Teaching Director: Lucia Azevedo

Communication Director: Alessandra Camargo and Carla Albano

In November 2023 we had the privilege of welcoming Betty Jackson in Brazil. Her teachings and assessments continue to resonate within our community and inspired new applicants for teaching members, which will soon be submitted to the ISST's approval.

We have exciting news to share with the Sandplay community! As of early 2024, our board has a new configuration.

After four years as president of IBTS, Lúcia Azevedo has transitioned to the role of Teaching Director.

Mariana Chalfon, who was in the Communications Department, is now the President of our Brazilian Institute. Maria Irene Crespo and Maria Helena Balthazar remain as Administrative-Financial Directors. Alessandra Camargo remains as Communication Director, but now in collaboration with our new member, Carla Albano.

Suzana Hirata and Claudia Spinelli, who served on the teaching board for four years, left their positions to continue in collaboration with the Institute on the Teaching Committee with Priscilla Tessicini, Márcia Sapata and Maria Aparecida Vilhena.

In addition to our regular teaching and administrative activities, we are planning a Sandplay therapy workshop, which should take place at the end of August. The workshop aims to introduce psychologists who are not yet familiar with Sandplay therapy to this theory and practice.

ISTA The Israeli Sandplay Therapists Association

President: Robin B. Zeiger

ISST Board Representative: Bert Meltzer

Reflections from the President of ISTA- Robin B. Zeiger

When I took on the position of president two years ago, I had no idea of the complexity and trauma we would face in this country after October 7th and the ongoing war.

Faced with the daunting task of trying to summarize our recent activities and events, I decided to focus on that which I am grateful for in this complex world. First, I thank from the bottom of my heart my colleagues, both nationally and internationally for their concern, support, and blessings along the way.

In late 2023, a small online consultation group met; it was originally organized by **Mark Bortz** and **Martin Kalff**. After the war began, Martin became the necessary and needed outsider, with the group's focus on meeting the therapist's/witness' visceral reaction to Sandplay scenes. Martin brought his calm presence and soothing voice to our temenos. He modelled the "holding" of the Sandplay therapist, always checking in with each of us before asking about our patients.

I applaud **Yael Bruno**, who has worked for six years in the North, an underserved part of our country, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. Each summer she has offered an introduction to Sandplay therapy to experienced art therapists. Last year, Yael and I began to develop a new training program to serve the North. We had planned a group of eight, but then the war broke out. Nevertheless, we ended the war year with five wonderful students. In addition, with President Takuji Natori san's supporting letter, we received recognition from the Statewide

Ministry of Education for all our official Sandplay training courses.



There is a Hebrew saying, "The very last is the most beloved." For me, the most beloved and miraculous is the power and professional work of our dedicated and energetic Sandplay therapists, practitioners, and students who have continued to work with the children and families displaced and traumatized by the war. I am continually amazed by the magical power of the sand to hold and heal trauma.

Due to the ongoing war, we note with sadness the loss of regular contact with our colleagues and students from Gaza. We were able to welcome several of them to our international

conference in March. One of our colleagues has succeeded in maintaining remote contact with some of them. We look forward to better times when we will meet and converse again.

I am also proud of our small group of dedicated Sandplay therapists who continue to grace our professional journals with their wisdom. Bert Meltzer published an article in the new open access **online journal of ISST**. ISTA members contributed four articles to the recent **Journal of Sandplay Therapy** Volume 32, Number 2, 2023: Michael Troudart, Lenore F. Steinhardt, and Daphna Rosin. Robin Zeiger published **online** and received special recognition from Wiley this year for her article, published in the **Journal of Analytical Psychology**.

Two-Year Sandplay Training Program, Lenore Steinhardt & Cindy Raskin

After a two month delay due to the war, we began the second year of our Sandplay training program, remaining on schedule until the end of the year. Most of our sessions were held online, as rockets periodically fired over all parts of Israel prohibited travel.

Our three guest lecturers were: **Michelle Mendelovitz Yuval** on a young boy's development and spontaneous Sandplay in hotel settings of displaced children due to the war, **Bati Loewenstein** on Sandplay with an autistic Boy and on the Buddhist Ten Ox Herding series of 12th Century paintings, and **Liela Abramovitz** on Sandplay with hospitalized adolescents in a closed psychiatric ward, and on a young girl's process of mourning for her mother. The students also researched and presented on the following symbols: the Frog, Turtle, Bridge, Black and white, and Cave to Hole.

Online - Sandplay supervision for volunteer Sandplay therapists

Many volunteer Sandplay therapists set up improvised Sandplay rooms in hotels in Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Eilat, for the evacuated displaced families. The rooms were open to anyone at any time, especially children who wished to make a Sandplay. These unplanned sessions were surprisingly powerful and effective. It became clear that the work itself and the symbols that arose needed to be more deeply understood. Lenore Steinhardt, Robin Zeiger, and Bati Loewenstein supervised eight online Sandplay supervision sessions for therapists to present their work in the hotels. Other Sandplay therapists were invited to join these open group sessions and learn from them. In cases where there was continuity of participation, we witnessed a gradual change in the type and quality of the symbols that arose, with first sandplays full of soldiers, cages, and fences, often covered by foliage, and later more daily scenes, as if hoping to return to normal daily life. After a few months, some therapist could see specific children on a weekly basis.

Ongoing Sandplay Work with Children Impacted by the Events of 7.10.23

Michelle Mendelovitz Yuval, Michal Troudart, Telila Navon & Yael Bruno

Our dedicated sandplay therapists, sandplay practitioners and students continue to work with children, parents and a few adults impacted by the events of 7/10/23 and the war that has followed. Many children have now moved from the hotels to which they were evacuated and returned home or to other temporary housing. Fortunately, some of our therapists have been able to continue therapy with these children in follow up sessions to further process the traumatic events they experienced on 7.10.23 and the subsequent massive upheavals in their lives. Our sandplay

work has transitioned from initial “first aid” trauma intervention sessions to organized regular weekly group sessions with the same therapists. Most of our therapists have never worked in groups with sandplay and have learned to adapt sandplay to a group setting. They have had to find appropriate ways to protect the “sacred space” of each child which is difficult when the children in a group are extremely unsettled. Despite these challenges we have developed group settings that enable many children to have meaningful sandplay processes for at least 8-12 weeks. For some of the children we have been able to provide follow-up one-on-one sessions and parent sessions during which parents were able to express their feelings of hopelessness and guilt about being unable to protect their children from “the worst”. Our therapists have received important and meaningful support in supervision by senior Israeli sandplay therapists and recently by our Swiss colleague Ruth Noel Hermann.

Since the war started, ISTA therapists, sandplay practitioners and students have worked in hotels in five different settings around Israel facilitating both group and individual work. Four hotel settings are still active, although two will close when the last families leave the hotels and make their way to more permanent housing.

The Emergence of Shared Themes in Children’s Sandplays

The sandplay images that have emerged in the last eight months reflect trauma and the psyche’s attempt to process events that were “too terrible to be told” along with individual and gender differences. Often, images that emerged overwhelmed both therapists and family members. Other images were beautiful and soothing. We would like to share some of our observations:

- Children who have been displaced for many months, unsure if their homes will be standing when they return, face a difficult and disorientating state of being. Work in the sand provided a sense of grounding and a place to express many of their fears or create compensatory images that give strength during this difficult time. Gradually, traumatic war trays abated and subsequent trays dealt with home and related topics. Miniature bomb shelters filled with terrified and terrifying figures were constantly used at the start of the war, and now are only occasionally used as treasure boxes or homes.

- We noticed clear differences in the sandplay images of boys and girls. Boy’s initial sandtrays were often chaotic with terrifying figures or compensatory superheroes. Later, most of these chaotic images abated and images related to scenes from home appeared in abundance, including food, cute creatures and treasures. Initial confusion between good and bad and who was fighting whom, transformed to more organized forces.

- Among the girls, initial trays showed compensatory images of nourishment, beauty and hope. At times beautiful images were fenced in and secured by guards. The fences and guards gradually left the trays, as the girls allowed themselves to place more difficult images in the sand, some of which reflect scenes from the beginning of the war.

- Working in groups impacted on the children’s work in multiple ways. The group offered support and allowed frightened children to express difficult material in the presence of their peers that in other settings they may not have done. However, at times the group culture became intrusive when children commented inappropriately about trays that were still in process or even using the trays to reflect unflattering stories about other children in the group.

JISST Japan Society for ISST Members

President: Yasunobu Okada

ISST Board Representative: Yasuhiro Suzuki; substitute: Masayoshi Hironaka

Report by: Prof. Hironaka

JISST consists of 8 members who are all ISST members including 7 TMs. Four candidates are now preparing to apply to become ISST members.

A new training program of making sand worlds

JISST had begun a new Sandplay training program to Japanese Sandplay therapists as trainees last year. The program is named “**Making Individual Sand Worlds**”. It is a type of personal training. Up to now training in Japan has tended to be held in group settings. Prof. Hayao Kawai started the group seminars after he returned to Japan from Switzerland (studying at Jung Institute and interacting with Dora M. Kalff) in 1965 to teach and spread Sandplay therapy in Japan. The group seminars have greatly contributed to the develop of Japanese Sandplay therapy. The Japan Association of Sandplay Therapy holds group seminars as public events every year. Of course, some Japanese Sandplay therapists pursue individual work with veteran Sandplay therapists. This is usually a continuous personal analysis using the method of Sandplay therapy. There are two types of training to make sand worlds and traditionally the group process is much more common than the individual process in Japan.

The problem is not which is better. The group experience allows for emotional interactions among group members and the one-on-one type is aimed at personal analysis using the method of Sandplay therapy. Group experiences facilitate important emotional

interactions between group members and individual processes allow a trainee to express oneself and look at oneself deeply.

The JISST’s new program provides trainees with the chance to make a series of sand worlds on a one-on-one basis. JISST members take a role of trainer and meet each trainee at his/her private office. This program is similar to a ISST personal process. However, it is not personal process itself because a trainee who participates in the new program can have only 3 times of making sand world. This new program is a modest effort to spread access to individual Sandplay process in Japan. When young Sandplay therapists have experienced the new program, we hope they will become interested in a full personal process set out by ISST. Although the new program has just started, there are already trainees who want to continue beyond their first three sessions. Some trainees had deep expression and were moved to tears in the sessions.

A seminar with Dr. Esterhuyzen



A snapshot of the seminar with Dr. Esterhuyzen

JISST partnered with the the Bukkyo University Sandplay Study Group to host a seminar with Dr. Alexander Esterhuyzen (the former ISST president and a Jungian analyst) on 23rd September 2023 at Bukkyo University in Kyoto. Dr. Esterhuyzen was invited by Kyoto University and came to Japan in mid-September. He stayed in Kyoto until December.

The title of the seminar was “East and West in Sandplay Therapy.” The host was Yasuhiro Suzuki (teaching member of ISST, Jungian analyst), the translator was Takuji Natori (teaching member of ISST, the president of ISST), the presenters were Masayoshi Hironaka (teaching member of ISST) and Yosuke Hatae (professor of Shirayuri University). Dr. Alexander Esterhuyzen took a role of guest commenter.

The speakers presented clinical cases of Sandplay therapy and a discussion was held for each case. The seminar was a small group and of high quality of attendees. Dr. Esterhuyzen commented on the cases and lectured about the client/therapist relationship from the viewpoint of depth psychology.

Active discussions were held at the seminar concerning various clinical themes including psychological problems of Japanese traditional family, Mother Archetype, masculinity, simultaneous sand worlds, problem of ending therapy, Sandplay therapy used in play therapy, and the function of sand itself in play therapy. The seminar was held for 5 hours in the afternoon.



KAST Korean Association of Sandplay Therapy

President: Sr. Hyerim Kim (Cecilia)

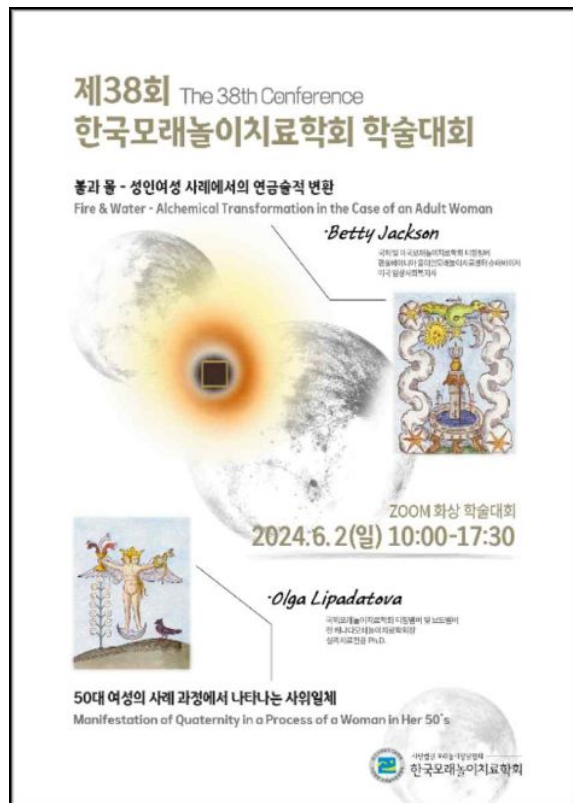
ISST Board Representatives: Sr. Hyerim Kim (Cecilia) & Boyoung Kwon (Christina)

Report by: Boyoung Kwon (Christina)

Membership

As of July 15, 2024, KAST has **109 ISST members**, including **52 ISST Teaching Members**. At present, KAST is dedicated to both training ISST trainees and developing domestic Sandplay therapists. KAST offers a variety of classes to strengthen the competencies of Sandplay therapists, and provides in-depth education covering topics such as folktales, myths, and alchemy.

KAST Conference



The 38th KAST Conference took place on Sunday, June 2, 2024, drawing significant interest with nearly 500 members in attendance.



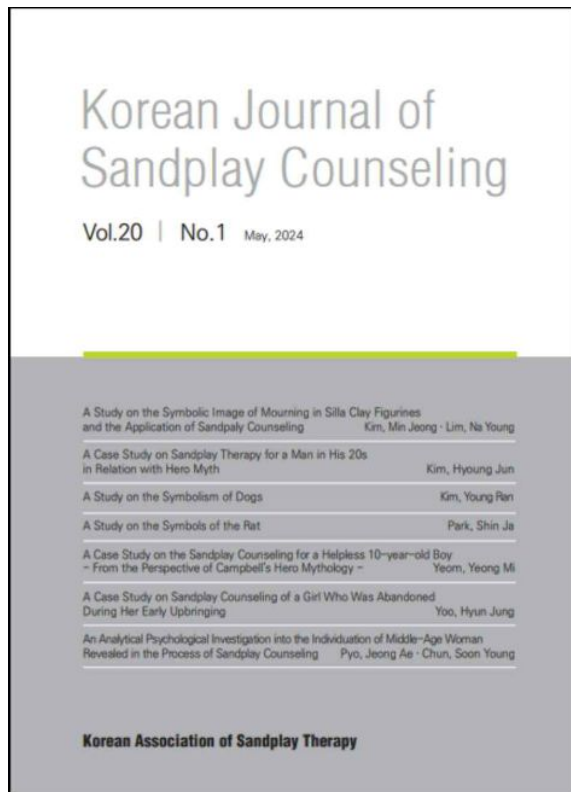
At the conference, **Betty Jackson** delivered an insightful lecture titled "Fire & Water - Alchemical Transportation in the Case of an Adult Woman," engaging the audience with her profound analysis.



Olga Lipadatova followed with a presentation on "Manifestation of Quaternity in the Process of a Woman in Her 50's," providing deep and thought-provoking perspectives on the topic. KAST members appreciated the chance to engage with lectures and case studies by TM

from other Member Societies, expressing high satisfaction with the event.

Korean Journal of Sandplay therapy



The KAST academic journal, Korean Journal of Sandplay Counseling, Vol. 20, Issue 1, has been published. This edition contains seven articles that focus on analytical psychology and Sandplay therapy. The journal is published biannually, contributing to the advancement of scholarly research in Sandplay therapy.

Healthy Family Community Movement

The Korea Sandplay Therapy Institute, an affiliate of KAST, leads the Healthy Family Community Movement. This movement aims to enhance the positive dynamics of families, strengthen family bonds, and help members reach their full potential. Operated by ISST-certified Sandplay Therapists and Teaching Members, the program utilizes Sandplay Therapy effectively. Each month, Sandplay Therapists and Teaching Members hold a meeting to share their experiences and discuss ways to improve the program. In June 2024, KAST built a training center dedicated to this movement, designed as a space where families can come together and participate in the program. It is hoped that by spending time together participating in the Healthy Family Community Program, families will come to appreciate the value of their bonds and gain renewed energy.



KSST Korean Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Sanghee Lee

ISST Board Representative: Aekyu Park

Reported by: Meera Kowen, Yeoreum Lee

KSST To Host 16th International Conference Themed “Trauma, Sandplay Therapy, and Post-Traumatic Growth” on December 7, 2024

The 16th International Conference of the Korean Society for Sandplay Therapy (KSST), themed "Trauma, Sandplay Therapy, and Post-Traumatic Growth," is scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2024. This year's conference will feature **Dr. George F. Rhoades, Jr.**, who gave an online seminar on "Trauma Bonds in Child and Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Abuse" earlier in the year. The event aims to provide an academic forum on trauma and post-traumatic growth, with presentations sharing clinical experiences in Sandplay therapy and trauma. While KSST conferences have been conducted online since the pandemic, the 2024 conference will follow a hybrid format, offering both online and offline participation. A workshop is scheduled for December 8 following the conference.

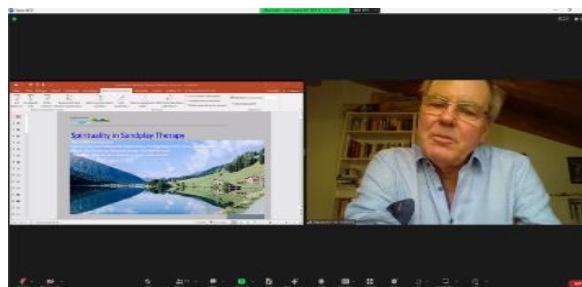
KSST’s Social Contribution Activities

Since 2024, KSST has established the Social Contribution Committee and launched various initiatives aimed at creating a positive impact. KSST was chosen as a supporting organization by the National Center for the Rights of the Child to provide post-adoption services for adoptive families in Korea. This initiative encompasses online parent education and the implementation of Sandplay Therapy for both adoptive parents and adopted children. Additionally, this year the Gyeonggi-do Office of Education designated KSST as an

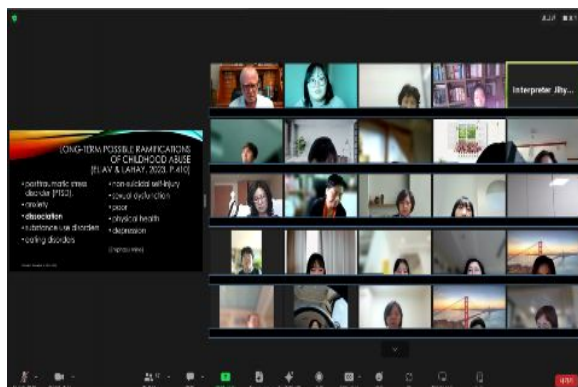
organization providing psychotherapy and guidance for students affected by school violence in the region. This initiative involves offering counseling and psychotherapy to both victims and perpetrators of school violence in Gyeonggi-do, supporting the recovery of victims, and strengthening protection and prevention efforts. KSST also provides counseling and guidance to parents, contributing to the protection of children and adolescents from the impacts of school violence.

Online Academic and Symbol Seminars in the First Half of 2024

In the first half of 2024, KSST hosted a series of online academic and symbolic seminars. Dr. George F. Rhoades, Jr. presented "Trauma Bonds in Child and Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Abuse" in February. In March, Alexander Von Gontard delivered a seminar titled "Religious Symbols in Sandplay Therapy".



April featured presentations on "Sandplay Therapy in High Schools" and "Digital Sexual Assault/Online Grooming and the Attributes of Victims and Perpetrators."



Looking ahead to the second half of the year, KSST plans to continue offering online seminars covering various topics related to Sandplay Therapy. Topics will include "shadow symbols in Sandplay Therapy and dreams" and "Sandplay Therapy for the elderly".

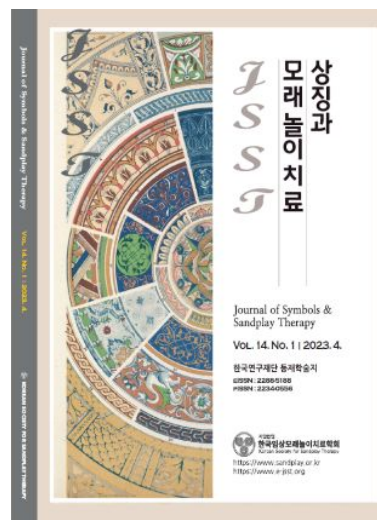
Revised Edition of Analytical Psychological Sandplay Therapy



For a world where eternity and infinity reside within a single grain of sand
For a world where the hands, not intelligence, speak. The revised edition of Analytical

Psychological Sandplay Therapy has been published. Authored by KSST member Mikyung Jang, the book is extensively utilized for Sandplay Therapy training at universities and conferences throughout Korea.

Journal of Symbols & Sandplay Therapy Publishes Vol. 15 No. 1



From 2023, Journal of Symbols & Sandplay Therapy (JSST) will be published three times (Apr. 30, Aug. 31, and Dec. 31). Indexed by the Korea Citation Index, JSST is issued into two languages simultaneously: Korean and English. It is available for free download at: <https://www.e-jsst.org/>

Vol. 15 No. 1

- Ethical Issues in Sandplay Practice and Research - Sana Loue
- The Fire of Refinement for the Beauty of Crystal - Jieun Kim
- The Effects of Group Sandplay Therapy on Self-control and Ego-identity Expression of Female Middle School Students - Minhee Seo & Sehwa Lee
- The Effects of Maternal Parenting Style and Play Beliefs on Children's Language Development - Enju Park & Seunghee Lee
- Hands: A Path to Reveal One's Existential Self - Seunghee Lee

LSST Latvian Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Līga Rāviņa

ISST Board Representative: Vera Ščerbakova

Report by: Vera Ščerbakova

LSST 2024 SPRING SEMINAR AND GENERAL MEETING 11/05/2024

The seminar “Working with Genogram in Sand” was conducted by **Ulrich Gwinner** (Germany), certified psychologist, systemic psychotherapist (SG) for children, youth and adults, Sandplay psychotherapist (DGST), TM (ISST), hypno-psychotherapist (M.E.G.). The seminar discussed the application of the classic genogram method and showed the work with the genogram in sand, illustrating it with pictures. The seminar was attended by 110 Sandplay practitioners who could ask questions and participate in discussion.

The LSST General Meeting

discussed various questions, elected the board re-electing the President and Vice-President. LSST now has a **new ISST member – Agne Rožlapa-Junkere** – so in total there are eight ISST members in Latvia.

Ulrich Gwinner also conducted two group supervisions – one for the group of LSST members, participants of the LSST project “Bridge to ISST”, the other for the TMs of LSST. The participants of the supervisions had a wonderful experience and learned a lot from U.Gwinner.





Dzintra Lasmane-Fiksa (preschool teacher, educational and school psychologist for children with special needs, Sandplay therapy method practitioner) presented a case “Those Who are Weak Conquer Those Who are Strong” about the influence of the Sandplay therapy method on the ability of the child’s psyche to cope with the situation of divorce in the family.

LSST AUTUMN SEMINAR 03/11/2023

The seminar was organized online, there were four speakers: **Dace Visnola**, Dr.paed., Mag.sc.sal., certified art therapist, certified Sandplay therapy practitioner, certified supervisor, trained in art therapy, art teacher, lecturer, mentor and leader of creative seminars for people of different ages) presented her symbol paper “Birds, Their Wings and Flight”. **Inga Dreimane** (certified psychologist in the field of clinical and health psychology, certified writer, national guard of the Latvian National Guard, practitioner of the Sandplay therapy method) presented a case “The Way of the Knight” about a boy who has moved to Latvia with his family because of the war and experiences a big challenge adapting to new conditions, language, people around and efforts to maintain ties with the country, family and culture left behind. **Zigrīda Lukša** (psychologist, psychodynamic consultant, practitioner of fairy tale therapy and Sandplay therapy) presented her symbol paper “Camel”.

NVST Dutch Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Jellemieke Hees-Stauthamer

Substitute representative Board-member: Theresa Foks-Appelman

Report by: Theresa Foks

The members of the Dutch association are at different stages. We have **2 ISST TM members** who are **retired** and committed to personal process and supervision. **Two active ISST TM members** who are still working and are also active in personal process and supervision. We recently added an ISST member who lives in Belgium as a member of the NVST. As long as there is still no association in Belgium and contact in terms of travel distance and language is easy to bridge, we are happy with it. For example, the Belgian border is a 45-minute drive from my hometown and I often do my shopping there and have several Belgian friends. I have investigated whether a joint association of European countries is possible. Legislation is being prepared in this area at the European Commission in Brussels, it looks like this could take several years, especially in the area of the various laws and economic conditions. But it is expected that a solution can be found for this, so that small countries can connect with each other and set up an European association. In our Society the number of **student members** has grown steadily in recent years to **7** and some of them have already started supervision and theory lessons online as well as from our own teachers and from abroad in person.

We hope that in a few years a new, rejuvenated board consisting of ISST members can take over from our elders. They are very pleased that the option of online lessons and online supervision has been accepted.

In our small country, travelling has also become more difficult and time-consuming due to heavy traffic and the many failures of public transport. In addition, almost everyone has a more than full day's work in mental health care and the aim is to keep waiting lists as short as possible.

Sandplay is still not recognized as an evidence based therapy and although it can be practised as a complementary therapy, recognition of its efficacy would help more therapists decide to follow training in sandplay. In the Netherlands, creativity and play are certainly recognized and known as an important part of life and work. The current research in the field of neural integration and sandplay therapy is being followed with interest by some members of our association and we hope that this will boost recognition of the effectiveness of sandplay

The **ISST conference** that will take place in the Netherlands in **2025** will also contribute to the awareness of sandplay.



Theresa and Jellemieke working on the computer for the congress

The conference team has worked hard on the preparation and an invitation for the call for papers and a link for registration will soon be available. Save the dates: **from Monday August 19 till Friday August 22**. The place is a beautiful conference building next to the beach of the Netherlands in a small beach town **Egmond aan Zee**, known for its beautiful wide sandy beach and the opportunity to walk along the sea and through the dunes.



*Theresa Foks, John Paulet, Jellemieke Hees
at the hotel and beach restaurant*

Our **international congress team** meet every month online and consists of: **Braam Beetge** and **Rheta Roux** from South Africa, **Marianne Molbech** from Denmark, **John Paulet** from Belgium and **Jellemieke Hees** and **Theresa Foks** from the Netherlands and the ISST treasurer **Olga Lipadatova** from Portugal.

Contacts with the keynote speakers have already been made and the congress organization is in the hands of the same international company based in Germany that organized the 2019 conference in Berlin. The option to participate in the conference online will become a possibility and all information



congress team

about this will soon be available on a special link on the website of the ISST and the NVST
www.sandplaynederland.nl

So keep an eye on the News on the ISST website!

SASTS South African Sandplay Therapy Society

President: Braam Beetge, Vice-President: Retha Roux

ISST Board Representative: Braam Beetge

Report by: Retha Roux

First Anniversary!

The South African Sandplay Therapy Society looks back with gratitude on its first year as a society. This milestone was celebrated in March 2024 with an online community event that included presentations by **Elretha Bartlett** (on the symbol of the feather) and **Nikki Themistocleous** (on the symbol of the spiral as it presents in case work). ISST Certified Sandplay Therapist, **Judith Bredekamp**, shared the inspiring findings of her doctoral research on using HTFW (House-Tree-Fire-Water-Person) drawings to communicate with parents while their children are in sandplay therapy.

Growing in knowledge

SASTS Teaching Members continue to offer individual supervision and personal process opportunities. Every second month, therapists have an opportunity to participate in online group supervision where a clinical case can be presented and discussed in depth under the expert guidance of **Braam Beetge**.

Dr Lynne Ehlers started the 2024 online webinar programme in April, kindling the fire with her rich teaching Sandplay Journey to Wholeness through the Alchemical Colours Black, White and Red. Also in April, **Retha Roux** presented a follow-up teaching Alchemical Operations as Metaphor in Jungian Sandplay Therapy elucidating the theory with a case study. In June, **Cariena Conradie**, a South African-born ISST therapist now residing in Niue-Zealand, illustrated the profound way in which an 8-year-old boy with

Complex Trauma found some grounding through his sandplay work with her presentation How Māui found his Mother.

Jungian connections

SASTS members are frequently asked to introduce Jungian Sandplay Therapy to the local mental health community. SASTS Secretary **Sylvia Clutten** belongs to a collective of therapists who completed the One-Year Jungian Certificate with **SAAJA** (South Africa Association of Jungian Analysts) in 2023. Through her influence, Dr **Nikki Themistocleous** was invited to present her symbol study and clinical work around the spiral to the group in April 2024. In May, SASTS president **Braam Beetge** presented The Image: Language of the Psyche in Jungian Sandplay Therapy as part of SAAJA's public lecture programme.

International connections

Braam Beetge continues his role as an ISST faculty member, together with Carlo Ruffino and Maria Kendler, for sandplay training in Turkey. In November 2024, Braam will also be teaching at the ISST Intensive Training Weekend in Portugal. Together with Retha Roux, he also serves on the committee organising the 2025 ISST Congress in the Netherlands.

Publication

Following her presentation at the **IAJS** (International Association of Jungian Studies) conference in 2023, SASTS and ISST

Teaching Member **Gwenda Euvrard**'s paper "Encounters with African Elephants: Transformative Gatherings" has been selected for inclusion as a chapter in the book *Jungian Psychology and the Human Sciences* to be published by Routledge. SASTS is fortunate to have someone with Gwenda's wisdom and fine scholarship to help grow our young community of sandplay therapists.



SGSST Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Maria Kendler, vice-president: Alexandra Moser Nura

ISST Board Representative: Viola Scheller

The 29th **General Assembly** of the SGSST took place on March 9, 2024, in Zurich. Once again, we were able to welcome a new member, making us a steadily growing group of members. The SGSST has now grown to 20 certified members.

As a **new training group** for the three-year training cycle started again in April, we hope that the number of members will continue to increase. Various teaching members are involved in this training. It is organized by Annabelle Aebersold, who has taken over this work from Bruno Hofstetter and puts a lot of time and heart into this extensive task.

A **retreat for teachers and interested members** was held on May 25, 2024 to clarify various questions about the training situation. The photo shows the participants in Ruth Boss's garden.



from left to right: in front: Monika Mäder, Annabelle Aebersold, Ursula Kübler; back: Brigit Holzmann, Ruth Noël-Hermann, Maria Kendler, Viola Scheller, Martin Kalf, Alexander von Gontard, Rut Boss and Lulu.

An important topic at the **General Assembly** was the change in **data protection** regulations in the healthcare sector (a new law since September 2023 in Switzerland), concerning the photos of the sand pictures taken during therapy. The question arose as to whether the photos of the sand pictures are part of the patient dossier and what right patients have to view or receive a copy of the photos.

Our conclusion from the lively discussion was:

- The pictures are part of the patient dossier, and therefore the patient also has the fundamental right to view and/or receive a copy of the photos.
- The patient should be told at the start of therapy what role these photos play in the therapy and its progress, and what right they have to view or receive them. In order to protect the therapy and the patient, a criteria must be developed as to how the photos can or cannot be viewed or received.
- There is a difference between adult patients and children: Adult patients should be given a copy of the photos on request, but this is not advisable for children and their parents.
- The importance of the free and protected space must be explained to the patient at the beginning of the therapy, in order to prevent possible injuries caused by comments and judgmental reactions if the photos are given to the patient, especially in the case of children.
- This means that a joint process should take place with the patient to clarify how to deal with the photos of the sand pictures.

These guidelines were drawn up by the members of the SGSST and reflect the common attitude of the members.

The **18th SGSST symposium** will take place from September 27-29, 2024.

This event is held alternately with the DGST. The theme of this year's symposium is: **Developmental Paths in Images. Sandplay therapy as a psychodynamic process.**

The symposium will take place in Beatenberg, which is located in the middle of Switzerland, at 1129m above sea level, and offers a fantastic view of the impressive mountains: Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau.

A varied program has been created and we hope for a stimulating exchange.

As there is a growing interest in Sandplay therapy in French-speaking Switzerland, as well as in France and Belgium, the main lectures will be simultaneously translated into French. The working groups will be held in German and French.

On Saturday there will be a festive evening with music and a gala dinner. Ruth Ammann has donated the Sandplay figures from her practice to SGSST, with the goal of organizing a festive moment from the proceeds. We are very grateful to Ruth Ammann for this generous gift, from which will benefit all participants at the congress. Ruth's Sandplay figures will be sold at the congress as well.

We are also proud to report that Mireille Rosselet-Capt was able to present the **new edition of Dora Kalff's book in French** at the General Assembly. The first book presentation took place on 02.12.2023 in Lausanne. Presentations were given by Maria Kendler, Oliver Geux and Mireille Rosselet-Capt. There are plans to repeat the **event in Paris on March 1, 2025**, with the same speakers.

Another topic that the SGSST is working on intensively is how to deal with the emerging **ISST archive**. The fact that Martin Kalff is leaving his house has made it necessary to place Dora Kalff's documents and, in the meantime, the documents from Ruth

Ammann's presidency in an archive. The archiving process has now been going on for over three years and it has so far proved difficult to find a suitable location for this archive. The wish has been clearly expressed that the location for this archive should be in Switzerland. Sue Chapman, the main person responsible for the Archive Group, is doing a great deal of work in this regard and will provide information on this in a separate report.

The 2022 **SGSST film on Sandplay** therapy is now available **on YouTube** with English and French translations.

Reedition of Dora Kalff's book in French "Jeu de Sable "

Motivating a publisher to undertake this reedition was a long and complicated process. We were lucky enough to be accepted by Baghera Editions in Paris, who had already published Jungian authors. It's a young publishing house based on voluntary work, and to make their work possible, Martin Kalff generously waived his royalties.

One of the collections of Baghera Editions was particularly well-suited to this reedition, the Pisica (Romanian for "little cat") collection, dedicated to the republication or publication of "texts that transmit to us the thoughts of extraordinary women".

The model for this reedition is the recent American edition by Analytical Psychological Press. New photos from the house and Sandplay collections are included in the new French edition.

Our aim for this reedition is to become **the new reference text in French language**. Thus, this work also involved translation issues: the reedition is based on a revision of the text that makes it more up-to-date and livelier, which is a real benefit for the

contemporary reader. Some fundamental questions for the translation appeared and Maria Kendler's and Martin Kalff's contributions have been a great help! The editor, Clara Gensburger, and the translator, Anne-Sophie Petit-Emptaz, have been working unpaid for the realization of this new edition.

Martin Kalff's afterword for the American Edition has been reworked into a preface. It has been translated by Mireille Rosselet Capt, and she has also written an introduction highlighting the links between Sandplay and Analytical Psychology via Jung's text on the Transcendent Function.

The first public presentation of the new edition of Dora Kalff's book took place on December 2nd, 2023 in Pully near Lausanne. This day with 4 conferences of therapists working with Sandplay was organized by the Antenne Romande, the branch of the C.G.Jung Institut Zurich in the French part of Switzerland. 30

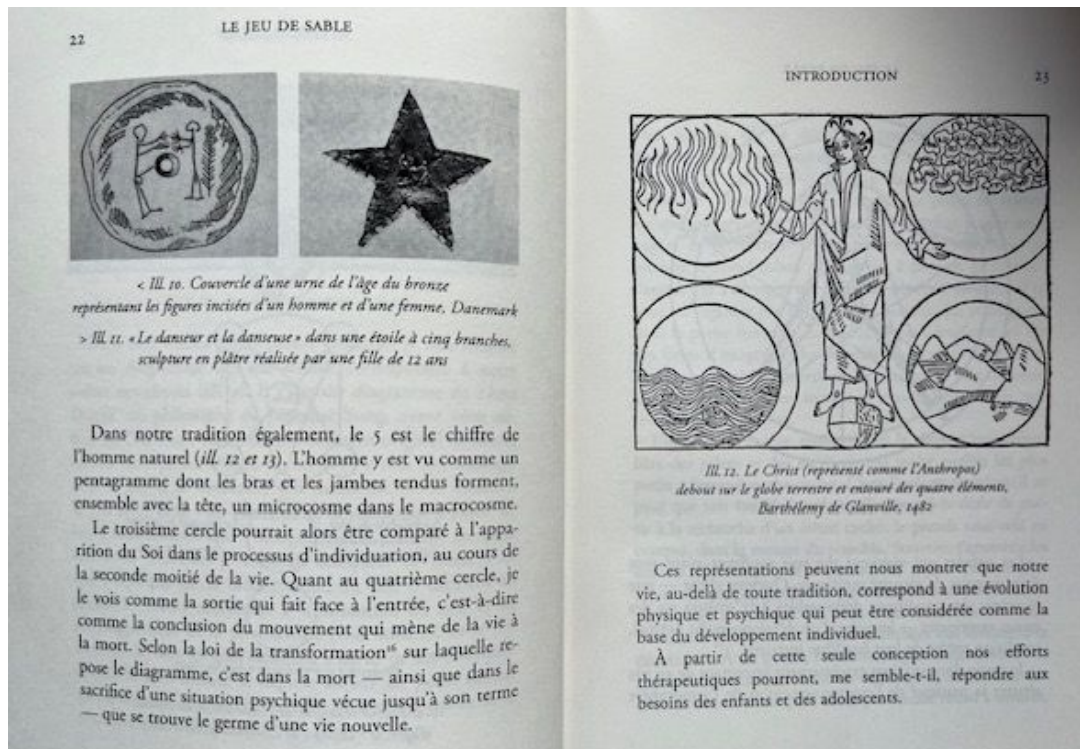
interested therapists participated in this special event.

On March 1st, 2025 the same program of presentation will be held in Paris so that we can bring together interested Sandplay therapists from Switzerland, France and Belgium.

Of course, it would be of great value if similar events of presentation would take place in other parts of France, in Belgium or Quebec.

Reference: Kalff, Dora M. (2023) *Le Jeu de sable. Son action thérapeutique sur la psyché*. Paris : les éditions Baghera, collection Pisica

Viola Scheller/Maria Kendler



STA Sandplay Therapists of America

President: David Dermott, Vice-President: Jacquelyn Kelley

ISST Board Representatives: Lorraine Freedle and Jacquelyn Kelley

Report by Lorraine Freedle

Our New President. In January, **David Dermott** began a two-year term as STA President. A psychologist and teaching member of STA/ISST David hails from coastal North Carolina. David is an avid musician who enjoys playing guitar when he is not too busy leading STA. **Jacquelyn Kelley** has become vice president and **Antoinette Eimers**, past president. Thank you, Antoinette for your service and welcome in your new role, David!

STA National Conference: Through Many, One. Diversity and Unity in Sandplay Therapy was held June 6-9, 2024 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Over 175 Sandplay therapists from across the US and other countries gathered. It was exciting to see those newer to Sandplay embracing the elders, teachers, and each other. Keynote speakers were Jungian Analyst, **Fanny Brewster** and STA/ISST Teaching Members **Alexander Shaia** and **Ellen Saul**. An elders panel, moderated by Gita Morena, honored the legacies of our founding members along with those members who have passed away. Featured panelists—**Luana Rowland**, **Janet Tatum** and **Alexander Shaia**—discussed Dora Kalff's lessons on spiritual practice. This year's silent auction raised a record-breaking \$10,000 to benefit the Journal of Sandplay Therapy. Special thanks to the conference committee **Luanne Lee**, **Lorraine Freedle**, and **Sally Carlon**, other volunteers, and to **Ellen LeBel** and her temenos team for creating a truly memorable event. The 2026 STA National Conference will be in Chicago.

2024 Award Recipients:

- **Lauren Cunningham**- Kalff-Bradway Award
- **Ellen Saul**- Mentoring Award
- **Luanne Lee** - Diversity Award
- **Michiko Akimoto** - Research Award

Save the Date! **The STA Intensive Retreat, Reclaiming the Sacred Masculine and Sacred Feminine on our Journey to Wholeness** will be held in Dallas, Texas at the Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, **June 3-6, 2025**. For more information visit <https://www.sandplay.org/>.



Members of STA Diversity Pilot Project in Santa Fe, NM June 9, 2024

STA Diversity Project

The STA Diversity Pilot Project is an innovative, multi-tiered training initiative made possible with support from Con Alma Health

Foundation, TeamBuilders Behavioral Health, and the New Mexico Sandplay Society.

Using a “community of practice” model, the project includes 24 participants of diverse backgrounds and addresses barriers to certification such as accessibility, feelings of isolation, and financial constraints. For more information contact Lorraine Freedle: lorraine@sandplay.org.

Journal of Sandplay Therapy- Browse Online Articles and Abstracts!

The Journal of Sandplay Therapy® now 33 years running, is a peer-reviewed journal circulated in 28 countries and published twice yearly in English under the editorship of Joyce Camuyrano Cunningham (joycecunninghamjournalofsandplaytherapy@att.net). The JST is indexed on PsycInfo, a prominent database sponsored by the American Psychological Association. Authors from all countries are welcomed to submit articles.

Visit

<https://www.sandplay.org/journal/abstracts/> to find full-text open access articles, research, and reflections. Search abstracts in multiple languages including English, German, French, Hebrew, Spanish, Portuguese, with key word searches available in Japanese, Italian, Chinese, Hindi and Romanian. Volume 33, Number 1 2024 is now available!

In Memory of Lucia Chambers

(January, 1932 – May, 2024)

“Listening to the Heartbeat of the Psyche”

STA mourns the loss and celebrates the life of one of our dear founding members, Lucia Chambers of San Jose, CA. Lucia was a beautiful woman who enjoyed gardening and surrounding herself with beauty. A teaching member and passionate leader of STA’s “Sandplay Therapy Institute,” Lucia encouraged us “to listen to the heartbeat of the

psyche” and to stay connected to the Self in sandplay research and clinical practice. She co-authored *Sandplay in Three Voices: Images, Relationships, the Numinous* (Routledge, 2005) with Kay Bradway and Maria Chiaia. Her reflection, *The Free and Protected Space in Sandplay Research* is available online.



Lucia celebrating publication of Three Voices at the home of Kay Bradway, Photo taken by Joyce Cunningham, 2005

STANZA Sandplay Therapists of Australia/New Zealand

President: Heather Lesley-Swan

ISST Board Representatives: Heather Lesley-Swan

Report by: Heather Lesley-Swan

Busy little Bees – that's what we are in Australia/New Zealand. Since our association was accepted under the preliminary legal requirements for ANZ (Australia/New Zealand) we have progressed enormously along that journey. Recently we were awarded charitable status, which is an important achievement for a society as small as ours.

We now have **34 new Associate Members**, who are progressing towards certification. To assist them and build our community across our vast geographic area we have now delivered several **STANZA Forums**. Our Forums are delivered by at least one Teaching Member, for two hours, and are free to participants. Each has a clear learning objective, meets the objective of building our community, includes a substantial Q&A session on Sandplay matters, and offers professional development points (not STANZA learning hours accrual). Our TMs give their time and expertise collaboratively, as part of our pledge to assist our Associate Members achieve their certification. Programs have been run by **Jean Parkinson** and **Carina Conradie** in NZ, and **Sarah Gibson** collaborates with the Australia New Zealand Society of Jungian Analysts in line with our global affiliation with IAAP. Participants in ANZSJA programs where Sarah teaches on Sandplay accrue learning hours towards their STANZA certification. **Mary Raftopoulos**, currently on a break in Greece, runs a Symbol Journey workshop in which participants report they are thoroughly enjoying progressing their Symbol Papers.

All our TMs are supervising individuals or groups, and I continue my 'intensive' Sandplay Therapy with people who fly into Sydney for a PP (*personal process*) retreat, during which they complete one Sandplay a day for a maximum of five days. Yes, the unconscious needs space!

Our first **Annual General Meeting**, with both full members and associate members, will be held in September, followed by a meeting at which all associates will have the opportunity to put their support wish-list before our Executive Committee. We have a strong cadre of therapists who are now so willing to do the work, along with a strong cadre of Executive Committee members who are committed to ensuring they succeed.

What a JOY!

TSST Taiwanese Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Min Li Chiou

ISST Board Representative: Pi Ling Chen

Report by: Min-hui Kuo

Disaster Trauma Healing Through Sandplay Therapy

Taiwan, a narrow, elongated island located at the junction of the Taiwan Strait, the Pacific Ocean, and the Bashi Channel, boasts a diverse geographical landscape shaped by tectonic plate collisions and rugged mountains, and lies within the path of typhoons in the northwestern Pacific. Consequently, Taiwan frequently faces the wrath of earthquakes, typhoons, floods, and mudslides. It also thrives as a global hub for industries such as AI, semiconductors, petrochemicals, and steel. However, this industrial prowess has also brought about anxieties, as exemplified by a large-scale petrochemical gas explosion and a factory fire in the city of Pingtung, which caused widespread panic among residents. While disasters are unpredictable, the people of Taiwan are known for their warmth and kindness. In the face of calamities, we generously donate money, time and effort to assist those affected. Recognizing the need for specialized training in disaster trauma healing, a group of dedicated and passionate mental health professionals invited **Dr. Lorraine Razzi Freedle** from the United States to conduct a workshop on “Trauma Healing through Sandplay Therapy” in March 2024. Dr. Freedle, a renowned pediatric neuropsychologist, trauma expert, and passionate international Sandplay therapy teacher (STA/ISST), is the author of the forthcoming book *When the Goddess Erupts: Pele in the Psyche of Woman*, and co-producer of the award-winning documentary,

“Fire and Sand: Healing in the Wake of the 2018 Kilauea Eruption.”

The workshop, conducted in a hybrid format (online and in-person), began with Dr. Freedle leading two three-hour online lectures. These lectures introduced Sandplay theory, trauma theory, and research on the application of Sandplay therapy in trauma healing. Participants learned about Sandplay therapy and its elements while exploring how to select and prepare appropriate Sandplay objects for different disaster scenarios. Dr. Freedle shared an example from a volcanic eruption in Hawaii, where her team used black sand and various volcanic or fire-related objects. They discovered that objects symbolizing water, aggression, rescue/protection (such as trees), and gods/deities were crucial elements in disaster trauma healing. Drawing upon mythology, Dr. Freedle shared the tale of Pele, the Hawaiian volcano goddess, illustrating that Sandplay healing extends beyond the personal unconscious, tapping into cultural and collective unconscious realms. She encouraged participants to consider potential connections between Taiwanese mythology and trauma healing, sparking interest in exploring and learning about our own “roots”. Finally, we watched the documentary on psychological relief efforts produced by Dr. Freedle and her team following the volcanic eruption in Hawaii. Tears welled up in our eyes as if we were also experiencing the journey of trauma healing together. Moreover, I deeply felt the Eastern philosophy of Wu Wei (do nothing) - a cornerstone of Sandplay therapy - as it

appropriately manifested in the “safe and protected space” provided by the therapist.



The third half-day session was dedicated to practical exercises, guided online by Dr. Freedle and facilitated in person by four Sandplay therapists in Taiwan. Three intervention models for disaster scenarios were presented. The first model involved creating a group sandtray, aimed at helping disaster-affected individuals form emotional connections with each other. After dividing into groups and engaging in Sandplay, the group atmosphere shifted from initial feelings of unfamiliarity, tension and unease to a state of calm and tranquillity, as if each person's heart had found an anchor. Participants then took turns selecting objects, as if creating their own sandtray and simultaneously contributing to a collective one. This process connected them to their personal narratives and emotions and also linked them to a broader collective unconscious. This profound experience deeply impacted even those new to Sandplay. Sandtrays for individuals were offered both one-on-one and one-on-two. Both formats allow individuals to narrate or share their stories after completing their sandtrays to facilitate conscious awareness of their experiences. To understand the effectiveness of these interventions in alleviating trauma, simple self-report scales were used for assessment.

Although it was only a half-day experiential exercise guided virtually, the physical setting -

surrounded by sand, symbolically rich objects, and caring participants - created a warm and dynamic environment. Participants felt a sense of purification in body, mind, and spirit. They then embarked on their journeys home carrying a slightly changed version of themselves, concluding a unique learning journey in Sandplay therapy.



CONTRIBUTIONS from INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

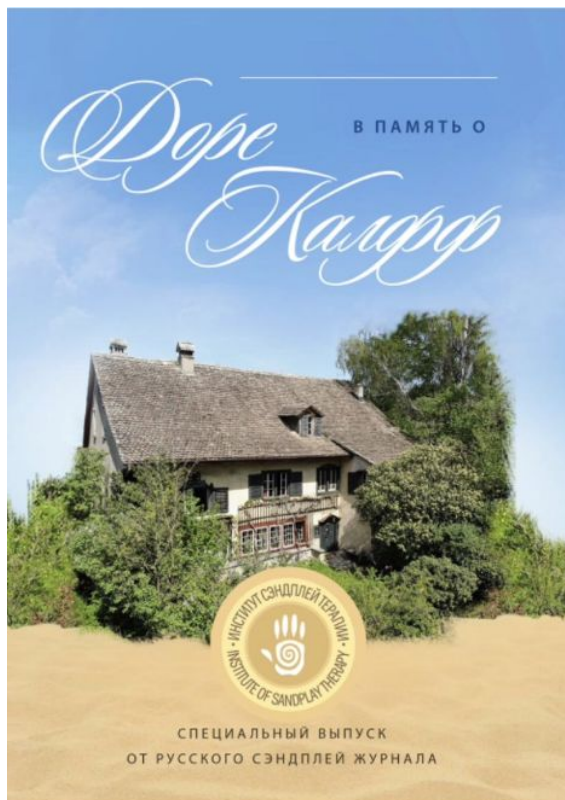
Board Representative Individual Members: Marina Ionescu

Substitute: Marianne Mobeck

IN MEMORY OF DORA KALFF: SPECIAL ISSUE FROM THE RUSSIAN SANDPLAY JOURNAL

An idea was born last 2023, when the editorial team of Russian Sandplay Journal celebrated Dora Kalff's birthday.

We wanted to get to know Dora more closely, like her students had, but our generation no longer has this opportunity.



We all know that Dora Kalff has developed and substantiated a unique and stunningly deep method of helping people – Sandplay Therapy.

But what kind of person was she and what kind of teacher? What kind of things did she think about? How did she cope with her experiences? How did she communicate with her students? How did she bring the light of knowledge to this world? These are just some of the questions that we would like to get answers to.

So we decided to create a collection of memories about Dora for future Sandplay therapists to know her in the way that those who met her in person experienced her. We asked for stories of what it meant for them to be and study in Dora's house. How the life and worldview shifted for those who stepped on the path of Sandplay therapy with Dora Kalff. How through this experience their hearts were changed.

We began to write to her students, to her son Martin Kalff and received many positive warm responses leading to the creation and publication of a book about Dora Maria Kalff in Russian.

We plan to place all these materials in one book, a unique edition to share about the creator of Sandplay and the development of her method. Nothing like this exists, a collection of warm memories of students, Dora's own instructions about the path of a Sandplay therapist, and deeper insight about Sandplay's philosophy as recalled by Dora's students.

On the pages of the book, Dora comes to life, captivating with her sincerity, conviction, clarity and spiritual depth.

Contents of the collection:

- Foreword from Editor-in-Chief Yulia Novgorodova
- Foreword from the translator Lilia Aslamazova
- Rie Rogers Mitchell, Harriette S. Friedman. Dora Maria Kalff: Past, Present and Future. Biography of Dora Kalff. Compilation by Y. Sheveleva
- Audrey Punnett. The house that Dora found. Translated from English by Y. Novgorodova
- Dora Kalff. Relativization of the ego. Submitted by Harriet S. Friedman and Ria Rogers Mitchell Translated from English by L. Aslamazova
- Martin Kalff. Her voice: Dora Kalff – Introductory Remarks .Translated from English by L. Aslamazova
- Judy D. Zappacosta. Her voice: Dora Kalff. Translated from English by L. Aslamazova
- Linda Nelson. Catching up with Katie: founder of the American Association of Sandplay Therapists. Translated from English by Y. Novgorodova
- Kate Adams. Out of the box. Interview with Betty Jackson, a member of the American Association of Sandplay Therapists and the International Society of Sandplay Therapists. Translated from English by Y. Novgorodova
- Olivia Heathcote. A Conversation with Luana Rowland. Translated from English by Y. Novgorodova
- Kate Amatruda permission to include Catching Up with Katie. Translated from English by Y. Novgorodova

We thank from the bottom of our hearts all the authors who contributed their articles to this commemorative collection. Special thanks to the editors of the Russian Sandplay magazine for photos from the personal archives: Martina Kalff, Betty Jackson, Kate Amatrude.

With deep respect to Dora Kalff, her students and followers,

Editor-in-Chief Yulia Novgorodova and the editorial team of the Russian Sandplay Journal (July, 2024)

Start of the **first group Sandplay therapy training** according to ISST Standards in Central Asia:

Almaty, Republic of **Kazakhstan**

The city of Almaty is the largest city in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the "Southern Capital," with an intensive economic, social, and cultural life. Almaty is located in the foothills of the Trans-Ili Alatau of the northern Tien-Shan mountains, so you can see the mountain peaks from almost anywhere in the city. The modern history of Almaty began in 1854 with the construction of a military fortification on this territory, called "Verny" (eng. means "Loyal")



Almaty City Republic of Kazakhstan

The area in which the city of Almaty is located is called Jetisu (Semirechye) by the Kazakh people; since ancient times it has been the center of active life for various tribes. Geographically, Almaty is located on the line of the ancient "Silk Road", which connected China and Europe and became a place of attraction for many peoples of different nationalities with a rich diversity of cultural heritage.

Continuing the multicultural tradition, in September 2023, a group of psychologists (see Figure 4) from different cities in Kazakhstan (Almaty, Astana, Taldykorgan) gathered in Almaty and met with ISST Teaching-member from Russia, Yulia Novgorodova (Figure 2, 3).



Yulia Novgorodova at a yurt, symbolically Kazakh inviting to study

In June 2024, upon completion of the first four theoretical and practical seminars, the group went on a small expedition to study petroglyphs (Figure 5) in the UNESCO World Heritage Reserve, "Tanbaly", where we observed images and symbols of the development of the human psyche (Bronze Age) and got acquainted with images of the legendary "Sunheads", whose solar prototype became the basis of the logo of "Sandplay Kazakhstan"



Sunhead on a bull



Participants of the first ISST training group in Central Asia



A memorable photo of the group "Sandplay Kazakhstan"

News- Announcements-Information

The ISST Archives Working Group

THE DORA KALFF & ISST ARCHIVES - *PRESERVING THE FUTURE OF OUR PAST*

For all ISST members, the Dora Kalff & ISST Archives represent our organisation's 'family history'. They can help us learn about who we are and where we come from, and help us to understand how we got here, and even why we are here. They hold our collective and individual memories, the wisdom of our ancestors and the stories that we are all part of.

The **ISST Archives Working Group (AWG)** was created by the ISST Board to bring together, safeguard and make accessible, our archival heritage for the benefit of both current and future ISST members.

2025 will mark 40 years since the formal foundation of ISST in Zollikon, Switzerland by Dora Kalff and 12 Founding Members from Japan, England, Italy, America & Switzerland. Since that time the ISST Board, our member societies and members, have been working hard to develop the formal and professional structures of the organisation to provide a strong container for our Sandplay theory and practice. We are now a global professional organisation that can look back and see that we have a history worth preserving and celebrating. It is our legacy and our responsibility to ensure that Dora Kalff and the ISST organisation take their rightful place in the history of people and organisations who have pioneered and brought to our world important psychological insights and approaches to healing in the 20th century.

However, next year **Martin Kalff**, one of our few most important ISST Founding Members still living and working, **will move out of the Kalff family home**, the ancient farmhouse in Zollikon where Sandplay as we know it first began. The place where people from all over the world came to visit Dora Kalff to experience and learn about Sandplay, and where ISST itself was founded. It is the end of one era and the beginning of a new one. Martin & Sabine Kalff will move to a new home in Zurich and in December 2024 they have agreed to hand over Dora Kalff's papers to the ISST archive and into the temporary guardianship of Maria Kendler in Morges, Switzerland. Members of the ISST AWG have made a number of archival research working trips to Zollikon and have produced a survey and report and listed most of the materials that remain from Dora Kalff's work. These materials, which document the early development of Jungian Sandplay throughout the 1960s, '70s and '80s and its initial spread into various areas of the world during the last decade of Dora Kalff's life, represent the first part of our ISST archive, its history and heritage.

The second part of the archive consists of the documents and materials handed over to us by Ruth Ammann before she died. We have yet to go through all these items thoroughly and make a list of the contents. However, we expect these hard copy materials to contain all ISST's legal documents and formal administrative records, such as Agendas, Minutes & Accounts dating from ISST's foundation in

1985 up until the time when Ruth ceased to be ISST President and ISST records began to be kept electronically. Ruth's records are currently in the temporary guardianship of Viola Scheller in Dornach, Switzerland. Also included in the collection passed to us from Ruth are Appendix C cases, some Symbol papers, and other materials such as Congress leaflets, and films.

The third part of the ISST archive comprises materials that the AWG are currently collecting or creating. We have made **film interviews** with our few ISST Founding Members still alive, including Prof Yamanaka, Andreina Navone & Harriet Friedman, and we plan to make more film interviews with our ISST elders so that their wisdom can be held and shared. With the permission of Ruth Ammann's family, we are currently compiling and editing film clips of Ruth speaking about ISST & Sandplay taken from films originally made during Ruth's many visits to China. We also aim to collect published obituaries of all ISST members who have died, and the audio visual records of past ISST Congresses and Intensive Training Weeks Programmes. We are currently collecting ISST member society family trees and timelines which will detail the names and roles that members have played in the development of their member society from its beginnings up until the present day.

Our aims in gathering these archival materials together are:-

1. To document and value the history that we have made and that we are part of;
2. To provide an educational learning resource which we can make available to ISST Teaching Members, students and members
3. To make archival materials available to ISST member researchers who can use them to

enhance Sandplay-related educational resources and published works

Every archive is unique in its character, and therefore it is important that our records are carefully stored and protected. Jungian Sandplay originated in Switzerland and from the time of ISST's foundation in 1985, Switzerland has been the legally registered domicile of ISST. Aware of this strong historical and legal connection to Switzerland, and following proposals presented to and agreed by the Board in May 2022, the AWG have been making informal enquiries with a view to finding a permanent and worthy depository for our hard copy archive materials within a University Library in Switzerland. Last year we were informed that Basle University were showing an interest in housing our archive. However, some AWG members felt that Zurich ETH University would be better placed to house our archive, and we are now actively pursuing this option. Zurich ETH Library already holds many Sandplay books by ISST writers and it also holds much of the Jung archive. Therefore, just as ISST benefits from being an affiliate member of the IAAP, we feel that the Dora Kalff & ISST archives would also benefit from proximity to much of C.G. Jung's archive in Zurich.

It would be a great honour if the Dora Kalff /ISST archive could be placed with Zurich ETH. Dora Kalff was a pioneering daughter of Switzerland and Jungian Sandplay first began in Zollikon with close associations to K snacht and the Jung family. More generally, Switzerland has been a neutral and politically stable country for well over a hundred years and in these uncertain times it would offer a degree of safety and security for our records.

Switzerland is also centrally situated in Europe and is almost equidistant between our ISST Eastern & Western members, while the neighbourhood of Zurich is the home of Jungian analytical psychology and it is Jungian theory that underpins all of our Sandplay Work. Switzerland is also almost entirely free from natural hazards and disasters. It is the registered home of Sandplay and offers a central and safe location for our archive to be placed.

A University Library in Switzerland would be best placed to protect, store and preserve both our historical and administrative records. However, there is still much work to be done before our records can be made ready to be placed in a depository. Documents need to be sorted and put into a coherent order and then quite a lot of scanning will need to be done.

It would be great if you, the **members of ISST**, could get involved. Maybe you could do some online research to help us locate and collect material together. Maybe you could help to create your own member societies' archives documenting the history of your ISST member society from its origins until the present day. Alternatively, you may have some historical materials to donate which would add value of the overall ISST archive. Let us know how you might be able to help.

We also want to know from you how you would like to access the ISST archive and what will be of most use to you. Not everyone is able to travel to consult hard copy documents and therefore we plan to scan material that is likely to be of particular interest and that will enhance our educational and learning resources. Let us know how you feel the archive will be of most benefit you.

I hope that what I have written here gives you a glimpse into the important work that the Archive Working Group is doing to preserve our history, to give it a worthy, accessible and secure storage place and to begin to make its educational contents available for all our ISST members and students.

For and on behalf of the ISST Archive Working Group

Chair: Sue Chapman, with Natori Takuji, Gao Lan, Sylvia Simonyi Elmer, Viola Scheller & Janet Tatum

Disclaimer:

The views expressed by contributing authors are not necessarily those of the ISST Board or the ISST Society.

Although we did our best to use the correct names and functions there may be mistakes or inaccuracies. If so, please let us know so that we can correct this in the subsequent issue of the Newsletter.

Thank you all so much for all your time and effort for contributing to this issue.

Every contribution and article is written under the responsibility of the author of the article or the Member Society and all are subject to copyright ©, which means that the article may not be copied without written permission from the owner.

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