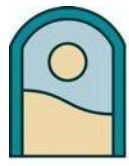


ISST NEWSLETTER

February 2026 Issue 24, Volume 14 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



ISST Board Members 2025

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
www.sandplaysociety.com

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LOGOS OF THE MEMBER SOCIETIES



There are Individual Members (IM) in the following countries:
Belgium, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore
and Uruguay (info@isst.office@gmail.com)

Message from the ISST President

Takuji Natori

Protected by Eternal Friends

Previously I have shared words of wisdom from a driver I have encountered, as occasionally, we receive unforgettable words from people we meet in life. Our relationships with such benefactors can range from long-standing acquaintances to momentary encounters or brief periods of friendship.

When I went voluntarily to a driving school for "paper driver" (refresher) training, as I already had my license, I was assigned a relatively senior instructor. He was a quiet man, however, as I was struggling to merge onto a major road, he muttered, "Driving like that will make your girlfriend run away" and gave me tips on how to handle the car. Whilst waiting at an intersection to turn, I was instructed to proceed but remained stationary as I noticed a pedestrian about to hurry past. Upon confirming there was indeed a pedestrian in my line of sight, the instructor said in a firm, clear voice, "good eye on that one" (literally, you saw that well).

Novice drivers often receive comments in the form of "don't do this" or "do more of that" because they lack skill. However, I learned that it is more effective to firmly reinforce a good action at the critical moment. Those words, "good eye on that one", have continued to protect my driving ever since. When I shared this episode during a supervisor training lecture for a suicide prevention telephone counseling service, a strict senior colleague told me, "That was good." That teacher has since passed away, but they continue to provide further support to the "Good eye on that one" episode from beyond.

When my mentor, Kazuhiko Higuchi-sensei – a founding member of ISST – was inaugurated as the president of the university where I work, he gave a memorable congratulatory address to the incoming students. I quote it here from memory. After encouraging the freshmen by saying, "Please, find friends for life during your university years," he added: "For those of you who find no friends around you, please visit the library. There, many of your friends are waiting for you within the books."

Many friends we meet in books may be authors from a different era or those who have passed. Nevertheless, one can certainly find friends in the past

with whom we share something that resonates with our sensibilities or destiny. Their presence heals current loneliness and supports us in living faithfully to our souls. Thanks to technology, we can "meet" past teachers through visual materials and video recordings, allowing us to experience the atmosphere that emanated from them. The footage of C. G. Jung and Dora Kalff speaking is truly precious.



Hidden in the Light, Found in the Shadows:
Our Constant Companions
photograph by Takuji Natori

James Hillman, a Jungian analyst, is also one of my mentors. I had the honor of translating "Lament of the Dead," a record of a series of dialogues he conducted in his later years with Sonu Shamdasani on the theme of Jung's Red Book. In these dialogues, the importance of listening to the lamentations of the dead is highlighted.

*JH: (...) And it seems to me that this offers a completely different way of realizing that the day world is permeated with the other world—in all kinds of small ways, that they're always inner voices, that the dead are cautionary figures. That you are living with the dead. And what you think of as the way of life may be the way of more death. And the way of death may be the way of more livingness.
(Hillman and Shamdasani, 2013, p.25.)*

Whether we have met them directly or not, I believe that relationships with mentors and friends of the heart bring us eternal voices that never fade as long as we keep them in our thoughts. In my Sandplay Therapy room, many of the figures have been passed down from senior Sandplay therapists

(including those deceased) and colleagues from around the world; they accompany the process of Sandplay Therapy with me.

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of our former President, Dr. Rie Rogers Mitchell, in October 2025. I believe it was at the 2012 Board meeting in Krakow, where I attended as a substitute for Higuchi-sensei. I remember how, elegantly dressed in a light blue suit, she quietly shook my hand with a gentle smile.

I felt warmly respected and accepted as a human being, for which I was deeply grateful. Memorial tributes are featured in this issue, and I would like to offer my heartfelt prayers for her soul here as well.

Activities of the Society and New Board Representatives

The most memorable event since the last newsletter report was undoubtedly the 27th Conference — Changing Horizons: Encountering the Other in Sandplay Therapy — held in the Netherlands from August 18th to 22nd. It was also deeply significant that it was held at the same venue as the first ITW event in 2006. My sincere thanks go to the Organizing Committee and all the staff who cooperated.

The activities of each committee continue vigorously. In particular, the Archives WG is organizing and temporarily storing documents passed down through the society while making efforts to secure a permanent storage location. Additionally, the leadership of this Newsletter WG has transitioned from Mr. Ulrich Gundermann to Ms. Betsy Quaglino. I have high expectations for this new generation's appointment.

Since the last issue, several individuals have completed their terms or passed their roles to successors:

Vice President Americas: Dr. Audrey Punnett to Dr. Mariana Chalfon (August 2025) Treasurer: Dr. Olga Lipatova to Mr. Ulrich Gundermann (October 2025) The Vice President Americas Audrey-san was initially overwhelmed by the sheer volume of work, but she attended meetings sincerely and steadily, more than fulfilling her duties.

As Treasurer, Olga-san was meticulous, always maintaining the healthy finances of ISST with a sense of stability and a friendly manner. I am truly grateful for the contributions of both.

Board Representatives:

(ISTA) Dr. Bert Meltzer to Dr. Robin B. Zeiger (August 2025)

(NVST) Mrs. Theresa Foks-Appelman to Dr. Jellemieke C Hees-Stauthamer (August 2025)

(SGSST) Ms. Viola Scheller to Dr. Ruth Noël-Hermann (November 2025)

(TSST) Ms. Pi-Ling Chen to Ms. Tang, Chih-An (Anne) (January 2026)

(DGST) Mr. Ulrich Gundermann to Ms. Ulrike Gysin (February 2026).

Bert-san supported the entire Board by providing wise opinions from an impartial and warm human perspective. For many years, Theresa-san has been dedicated to editing our Newsletter, consistently producing beautiful layouts. She also made a significant contribution to the 2025 Congress. Viola-san actively took on the work of the Review and Archive WG especially with the work in Switzerland.

Pi-Ling Chen-san fulfilled their duties with sincerity and agility as a bridge between the Board and TSST. Ulrich-san worked hard both for the ITW and Newsletter and has now accepted the heavy responsibility of Treasurer. I express my deepest gratitude to all of you.

To all members and trainees, we look forward to your continued warm support and cooperation.

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

Reference

Hillman, J. and Shamdasani, S. (2013) *Lament of the Dead: Psychology after Jung's Red Book*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co.



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 has 57 members; 35 of them are ISST Members and 5 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.

2025 has been a very full and important year for our society: many things have happened, but most significantly, after many years, we had the great pleasure and opportunity to hold an AISPT Congress. The Congress was held near Florence, a beautiful and bucolic place, where we had two full days of enriching presentations.

It was also a time to share together our thoughts and feelings, as just being together had not happened for some time.



The research groups: 'The Use of Stones in Sandplay Therapy' and 'The Therapist's Sight on the Patient's Images' still meet and continue their work. We also have a newly formed group that is focusing on 'Sandplay Therapy and PMA (Medically Assisted Procreation)', studying cases of patients who were born through this procedure and with a particular attention to the first three sandtrays.

At our annual meeting in Florence that took place in October 2025 the purpose of the meeting was to share the work of these three research groups. In addition, a series of conferences entitled “Lo studiolo dell'alchimista” (“The Alchemist Study”) is continuing online with interesting topics that allow participants to deepen their knowledge of Sandplay Therapy and examine images of sandtrays, connecting theory and practice through clinical examples.

In 2026, this series is now in its fifth year and proving to be an essential part of our continued training programme for both students, and new and old members of AISPT.

For me, 2025 has also been the year in which I had the opportunity to present a case study in August at the ISST Congress in August in Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands. It was a great honour to be able to share my experience with the ISST Members that were there, and I felt deeply how ISST has grown, rooted throughout the past forty years, and which now connects us all.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Sue Chapman and all the members of the ISST Archives Working Group for welcoming me to the group in 2025 and in doing so giving me the chance to be in touch with the ISST's history and to feel even closer to “our” Dora Kalff.



BISS British & Irish Society for Sandplay Therapy

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

ISST Board Representative: Natasha Salter-Ling

Report: Natasha Salter-Ling & Judy Filmore

At the ISST Congress last summer Judy and I had time to reflect on our time as co-chairs for BISS. We shared our mutual feelings of gratitude for the relationships formed and connections made both within BISS and wider, amongst the international community of ISST.

Reflecting on the challenges; holding out a hand to the past, maintaining our historical roots as well as forging forwards, anticipating future challenges, such as how to reach those interested in Sand-play Therapy and continuing to keep growing. It can sometimes feel a fine balance to maintain the intimacy of a small society with the demands to keep our running costs secure and growth healthy.



John, Maggie and Natasha with the 2025 Training Cohort

We continue to see healthy growth this year as our regular events are well attended. Webinars given by BISS and ISST members, recent talks by John Moffitt (BISS), Ruth Noel-Hermann (SGST) and Lorraine Freedle (STA) have

treated our members to diverse and rich encounters. In these three webinars alone, we were led through stories of St Barbara, Orpheus, Eurydice and the Goddess Pele. Our storytelling groups continue well attended, and we extended a warm welcome to trainees who started the training in Spring 2025, pictured here under the cherry trees in London. Their theoretical hours with BISS will come to an end this July and we hope that they will stay engaged with BISS as they pursue ISST certification.

Our big news for 2026 is our conference. This will be held in the historic Abbey House in Glastonbury from October 9-11th. Our theme **Sacred Space in Sandplay: Holding, Witnessing, Healing**, feels fitting for such an ancient landscape and we hope will inspire speakers and attendees alike.



Picture: Deur Josep Renalias Eie werk, CC BY-SA 3.0, wikipedia

We are grateful to Janet Tatum who is travelling to the UK to be our keynote speaker, in addition to a talk from a local stonemason, skilled at working on different 'sacred spaces'. Ticket details are now on the BISS website so we hope that international ISST members will join us. The conference's location and subject matter will surely provide an opportunity to immerse oneself in the mythical, magical and sacred symbolism of this part of the world.

Natasha Salter-Ling

Encountering Neumann

By: Judy Filmore

I called 2025 "My Year of Neumann". Through the encouragement of Lida Shany, author of a recent book which attempts to revitalize interest in Neumann's work, I began an in-depth, immersive encounter with Neumann. And I loved it!

As I am currently undertaking training to become a Teaching Member for BISS, as part of that process I presented Neumann's psychological stages of development and the impact of trauma on children at our November 2025 training weekend. I presented Neumann's theory of a child's psychological development, selecting images from children's Sandplay to illustrate his stages of development shown in both wet and dry sandtrays. In the feedback there were requests for more in-depth conversations on Neumann and how useful it was to be able to see Neumann's stages in children's Sandplay images.

I was looking particularly at what he brings to my understanding of a child's psychological development, and it turns out quite a lot! He is not for the faint-hearted since his high German content translated into English is dense and repetitive mainly since his book "The Child" was not a finished manuscript - he unfortunately died before completing it. I would urge anyone who is intrigued by how a child develops psychologically to look at Neumann - there are some treasures to be found.



CAST Canadian Association for Sandplay Therapy

**Executive Committee: Maria Iosue, Jennifer Leaf, Carmen Oprea,
Sue Diewert**

ISST Board representative: Sylvia Simonyi-Elmer



*Margot Lambert, Sue Diewert and Sylvia Simonyi-Elmer
in the Lamoraalzaal - ISST 27th Congress*

Congratulations, ISST Certifications

CAST is proud to celebrate two members who have become ISST Certified Sandplay Therapists since last year: Sue Diewert and Margot Lambert.

Sue Diewert is a valued member of our community and a respected professional in British Columbia. As a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC), she specializes in helping children and families navigate complex emotional challenges, providing a safe and creative space for healing and personal growth. With a Bachelor of Education and a Masters in Counselling Psychology from UBC, Sue has been in part-time private practice since 2000, working mainly with school-aged children. Her diverse life and career experiences enrich her therapeutic work. Sue's commitment to sandplay and CAST is evident through her leadership and

service, serving as a Director on CAST Board, and as a member of the Executive Committee.

Margot Lambert is the most recent CAST member to achieve her certification status. Margot is a mental health therapist with a master's degree in social work (MSW) from the University of Calgary, offering trauma-informed care to children and their families in Grande Prairie, Alberta. She balances a robust public sector role as a children's mental health therapist alongside her private practice.

Margot is a dedicated member of the CAST and Sandplay communities; she co-presented a case study at the 2018 CAST Web Conference and attended the recent ISST Congress.

Thank you to Sylvia Simonyi-Elmer

Report by Johanna Beyers

CAST thanks Sylvia Simonyi-Elmer for her over thirty years of service to the CAST Board of Directors. Sylvia continues to serve as the CAST ISST representative and as a CAST Teaching Member.

"It has been my good fortune to have served with Sylvia on the CAST board for more than 10 years. When I joined – I think it was at the 2009 AGM – she was already our ISST representative, a position she still faithfully holds.

It was through Sylvia that new CAST members such as myself became educated in the nuances of the relationship between CAST, other member states and ISST, and issues the international community faced, and learned how CAST, through its responses to ISST queries, defined itself as a member organization, reflecting professional and Kalfian values as well as Canadian Sandplay history. Sylvia made sure that we were up to date with ISST developments and guided us expertly in our discussions.

Sylvia has been supportive to me personally, first as one of my readers for certification in Sandplay and lately as supervisor and all-round support for my co-teaching presentations in my journey to becoming a Teaching Member. Thank you, Sylvia, for your dedicated leadership in our organization.

I shall miss you on the board, but look forward to working alongside you in other ways in the years to come.”

CAST Virtual Presentation by Betty Jackson

Report by: Sue Diewert

Betty Jackson presented a fascinating virtual workshop to CAST members and guests on November 16, 2025 entitled:
“To Touch or Not to Touch... Working With Tactile Avoidance in Sandplay”.

“Recently Betty Jackson, LCSW, CST-T from Pennsylvania presented a captivating workshop. The case study Betty used to highlight the issue of tactile avoidance was impactful and demonstrated the immense importance of a free and protected space for the client to work in. I also felt Betty showed the masterful art of patience and flexibility throughout the therapeutic process. If you did not get a chance to be at the presentation, I would highly recommend watching the video.”
Contact the [CAST Administrator](#) to register to view the recording.



CSST Chinese Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Cai Chenghou, Vice-president: Yin Fang

ISST Board Representative: Cai Chenghou

Report by: He Jingyu, Wu Yan & Cai Chenghou

A. The 16th Conference on Analytical Psychology and Sandplay Therapy

The 16th Conference was held from December 12-14th in Guangzhou and centered on the theme “The Knowledge of the Heart: The Symbolism and Significance of Myths and Fairy Tales in Analytical Psychology”. The conference served as a bridge, connecting theory with practice from East and West, through the lens of myths and fairy tales. Scholars and practitioners from cultural, philosophical, and psychological fields, from both China and abroad, gathered together. Many thousands participated both on and offline, with approximately one hundred keynote speeches and professional seminars delivered, all fostering meaningful dialogue in the field of depth psychology.



B. The 2025 Annual Meeting of CSST

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the China Society for Sandplay Therapy (CSST) was held in a hybrid format on December 13 in Guangzhou, with all

members in attendance. The conference reviewed CSST's work over the past year. Members also discussed the society's development plan for 2026 and preparations for the next annual conference.

C. Active Participation at the 27th ISST Congress

Under the leadership of the president and founding president, the CSST team took an active part in the event. Chinese Sandplay Therapists delivered ten academic presentations, showcasing CSST members' dedication to both clinical practice and scholarly research.



Dozens of CSST members attended the IAAP Congress in Zurich. CSST members contributed to the Congress through a plenary presentation (Chen Kan, You Xiao, hosted by Shen Heyong) a breakout session (Cai ~Chenghou) and panel; presentations. In addition Shen Heyong, Gao Lan, and other visited Martin Kalff, and many CSST members visited Ruth Amman's grave to lay flowers in her memory.

D. In Memory of Dr. Rie Rogers Mitchell

In October 2025, CSST published a memorial collection to honor our beloved teacher, Dr. Rie Rogers Mitchell. The collection reflected on the warmth and wisdom she brought to China and expressed our deep gratitude and remembrance.

E. Seminars and Member Advancement

In April 2025, CSST organized the public lecture "Encountering Sandplay Therapy", featuring three newly ISST-certified members who shared their personal and professional journeys into Sandplay Therapy. The event

attracted nearly 10,000 online participants. CSST members, serving as doctoral supervisors, have led doctoral and master's students in research on Sandplay Therapy.

Over the past year, nine doctoral and master's students—with a primary focus on Analytical Psychology and Sandplay Therapy—have completed their degrees, and more than ten academic papers have been published. In addition, the Chinese-language academic journal Sandplay Therapy continues to be published regularly.

F. “Member Spotlight” Feature and “Healers’ Wish” Service Project

To better highlight the professional contributions, the society maintains the “Member Spotlight” column on the website, showcasing member achievements in Sandplay Therapy and fostering community exchange. In 2025, four members were featured: Qian Yongxia, Liang Jingye, Wang Jingping, and Yang Yan.

Participation has continued in the “Heart-Soul Garden” programs in orphanages. To date, approximately 100 such programs have been established nationwide, supporting the psychological development of orphaned children through Sandplay Therapy. CSST members also participate in the “Healers’ Wish” project, providing psychological support to cancer patients and their families. In 2025, 18 members delivered 166 support sessions contributing their expertise to this meaningful initiative .



DGST German Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Eveline Brinkman; Vice-President: Ursula Wachter

ISST Board representative: Ulrike Gysin

Report by: Ulrike Gysin

The position of ISST board member has changed hands from Ulrich Gundermann to me, Ulrike Gysin (Art and Sandplay therapist in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany). In the future I will also be supported by a tandem partner. As you know, Ulrich Gundermann resigned from his position as board representative because he was appointed Treasurer of the ISST. We thank him for his excellent dedicated work as ISST Board Member!

It is my pleasure to share below some news from DGST with you; DGST currently has 95 members, of whom 30 are also members of the ISST

News from our Vice-President Ursula Wachter

At the end of 2025 we had board elections. Our president of the last six years, Ulrich Gwinner, was no longer available. He has completed excellent integration work for DGST.



Our board now consists of:
Evelyn Brinkmann (President, pictured here). Ursula Wachter (Vice-President)
Petra Neu (2nd Vice-President)
Norma Michl (Treasurer) Maria Behr (Secretary)
Monika Stamm. We are very happy to announce that we have also have one new ISST member and one at the end of their review: Adriana Kavlak-Kirchner and Ulrike Schwarz.

We have also been very busy considering if we, as a society, can offer a Sandplay training, as in Germany there are many things to consider. We are preparing our next conference which will be held in September 2026 in Weimar, where Goethe and Schiller lived . The Title is: The Tree in the Garden of Life.

News from the former president of the DGST – Ulrich Gwinner

Ulrich Gundermann and Ulrich Gwinner continued the two and a half year advanced training program with eight participants. This program concludes in March 2026. A new advanced training program is planned to start in the summer of 2026. At the end of 2025, a 2-day introductory workshop in Sandplay Therapy took place, this was so popular that the participants had to be divided into two separate workshops!

General news from teaching members of DGST

Maria Ignez de Carvalho Hartmann is a psychologist, music therapist, Jungian child and adolescent psychotherapist and teaching member of DGST, ISST; Member of DGST and IAAP. In her work she is a lecturer for Sandplay Therapy C.G. Jung Institute Los Angeles and Sandplay Therapy Singapore and Lecturer and supervisor Instituto Anima, Sao Paulo, Brazil. She provides seminars and Supervision at my private praxis in Speyer, Germany and offers seminars in various institutes in Germany and Brazil. Maria has publications in Germany, Switzerland, UK, Brazil and USA. She is also a musician and author.

Member Anke Seitz provides teaching activities, both in person and online. In addition she offers personal processes (only in person) and national and international individual supervision. She is a reader and advisor of international final case papers and offers group supervision internationally, as well as lectures in Jungian Sandplay. Anke writes that she would like to share a very touching encounter in Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands. (ISST Congress 2025). After 10 years a small South-African-German Seminar



developed into a PhD by Judith Bredekamp (pictured here): Congratulations!

As already mentioned, DGST is looking forward to a major event in 2026: The 19th German-speaking Sandplay Therapy Conference from September 25th - 27th 2026 in Weimar: The Tree in the Garden of Life.

*"We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered,
By God's almighty hand" (M. Claudius) ■*

HKSTA Hong Kong Sandplay Therapy Association

President: Sally Shook Yim Chan

ISST Board Representative: Sally Shook Yim Chan

Report by: Sally Shook Yim Chan

The year 2025 was the fifteenth year since HKSTA was formed. The number 15 often signifies a symbol of ongoing change and movement. We still face challenges in many areas, especially the decreased number of members. We continue to work hard and focus on

- (1) promoting Sandplay Therapy workshops and reaching out to helping professionals who may be interested in Sandplay Therapy and recruiting new members,
- (2) and encourage our experienced HKSTA members to become Certified Sandplay Therapists, and Teaching Members.

HKSTA has 71 members; 7 of them are ISST Members and now 5 are ISST Teaching Members as one of our Certified Sandplay Therapists became an ISST Teaching Member in November 2025.

Another member became a CST in February 2025 but she now resides in Japan. We are pleased that two of us are in the final stages of becoming ISST Teaching Members, and three others are writing their Final Case Study.

In 2024, an exciting development and opportunity for HKSTA opened when the Program Director of Psychology at The University of Hong Kong's Department of the School of Professional and Continuing Education (HKU SPACE) invited us to provide basic Sandplay courses for their students and promote Sandplay Therapy to beginners, with no knowledge of Sandplay.

In May 2025, we gave an in-person 4-hour introduction to Sandplay Therapy, and a 10-hour short course entitled "Jungian Sandplay Therapy: A Safe, Creative Space for Resolving Psychological Conflicts." In 2025, we offered two workshops:

- 1) "Clinical Application of the Jungian Concept of Complex in the Sandplay Process with Dreams" and
- (2) "The Multi-layered Psyche, The Inner Infant and Sandplay."

The first 12-hour workshop provided by Mr. George Kwok was hybrid (online and in-person) and covered Jung's important complex theory, applying the

concept of complex in the Sandplay process with dreams, illustrated through clinical materials.

Important complexes for male and female clients, such as parent, princess, hero, anima/animus, etc were discussed. Participants were introduced to the use of dreams and Sandplay to facilitate the inner healing journey of clients in the framework of complex theory.



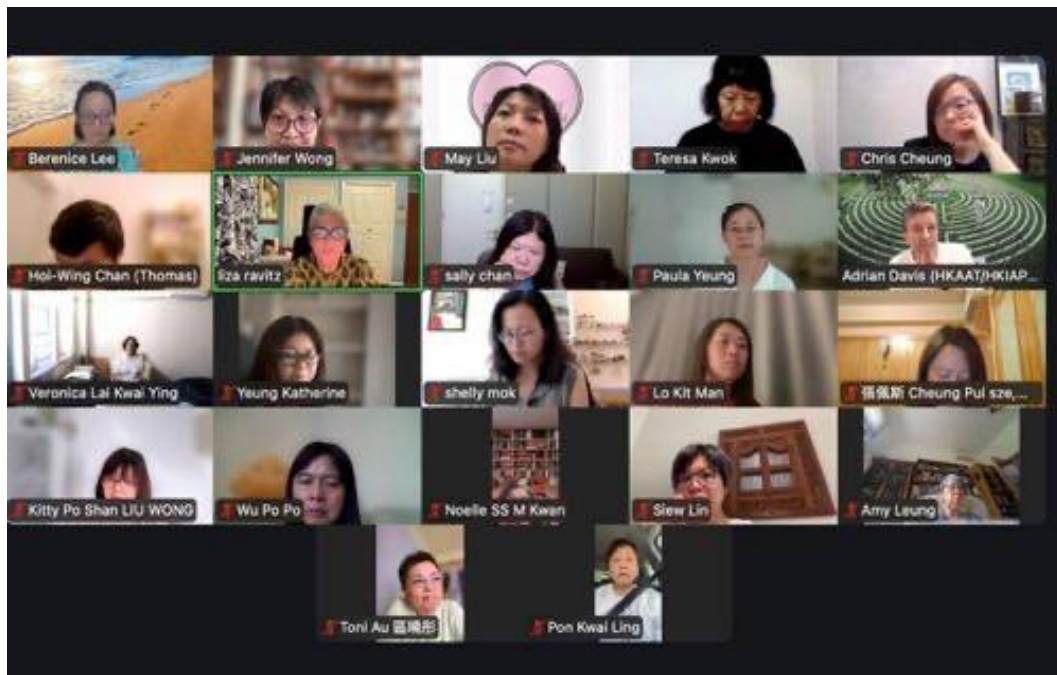
Workshop provided by Mr. George Kwok

In October 2025, Dr. Liza Ravitz gave a second 12- hour workshop online. Dr. Ravitz taught the participants to identify the different levels of the unconscious that the Sandplay therapist witnesses when working with clients. These levels include both inner and outer space, as well as archetypal, cultural, personal and relational layers of the unconscious. All these different layers weave together in a non-linear fashion throughout a Sandplay process fostering individuation and healing.

Sandplay therapists also identify the developmental aspect of a Sandplay process, not only in relation to the inner child, but also, to the inner infant. Sandplay enables access to the preverbal level of a young child as well as the archetypal level of the infant. At times, we bear witness to the infant

level of the psyche where the first encounter and bonding with the archetypal mother takes place, which Neumann labelled the Uroboric phase of development and Dora Kalff called the Mother-Child unity. This is the beginning of life outside the womb and lays the foundation for all development to follow.

In 2025 we continued with nine online study groups whose content mainly focused on symbol study, sharing of books, articles and case studies, as well as a forest walk.



Workshop provided by Dr. Liza Ravitz



IBTS The Brazilian Institute for Sandplay Therapy

President: Mariana Taliba Chalfon

ISST Board Representative: Carla Albano

Reported by: Carla Albano

Since last October, we have been living through a bittersweet period. Just a few days after the passing of Dr. Rie Rogers Mitchell. Our Sandplay community suffered another profound loss: Sylvia Morbach Portella (*February 24, 1936 – †November 15, 2025), our dear colleague and one of the founders of IBTS, passed away at the age of 89.



The history of IBTS is intrinsically intertwined with Sylvia's own life story.

Shortly after the Institute's foundation, she generously opened her home to host Sandplay meetings and seminars. Her house became the very first address of IBTS, serving as its initial headquarters. In this way, Sylvia transformed her home into the first home of IBTS.

Staying at Sylvia's house felt like a gentle journey back in time. The spacious annex in the backyard, where meetings were held, was embraced by a lush and welcoming garden that consistently offered peace and joy. The strength of the old, majestic trees, the cyclical beauty of the blossoms, and the cheerful birdsong became a living metaphor for Sylvia's presence among us. Her wisdom and sensitivity illuminated our paths and helped us grow deep roots. With hearts full of gratitude, we trust that her teachings will continue to live on through us.

Sylvia's passing coincided with IBTS's move to a new address. In this new space, our 3rd Training Group held its second in-person meeting. The moment felt deeply symbolic: as we opened a new chapter in the Institute's history, we were also saying goodbye to someone whose presence helped build its very foundations.



Tribute to Sylvia Morback Portella

During this four-day in-person meeting, the 3rd Training Group also had the opportunity to be introduced to many members of our community. During our end-of-year gathering, we also held a heartfelt tribute in honor of Sylvia's memory. It was a meaningful moment of shared affection, allowing us to celebrate her life and the deep imprint she left on our community.



ISTA The Israeli Sandplay Therapists Association

President: Robin B. Zeiger

ISST representative: Robin B. Zeiger

Reported by: Robin B. Zeiger

This year, post October 7th, 2023, a project very close to my heart is co-teaching in a unique Sandplay Training with Michal Troudart, in the Bi-National School of Psychotherapy in Jerusalem. I recently gave a powerful experiential and theoretical workshop on building temenos, to our 16 students which includes Arab Israelis, Jewish Israelis and two students from the West Bank who participate via Zoom. Experiential work of the “soul” built with art helps us to bridge different languages and cultures. A student from Bethlehem who participates on Zoom, suffered a brief power outage as we began work and could not create.

During our sharing together, we reflected upon the challenges of the literal temenos we create. As I listened to the deep empathy of our students, I reflected upon how far we have come in these months. One of our students, Hilda Awwad from Ramallah in the West Bank reflected: “I strongly believe that individuals can continue moving forward in life even when they are experiencing deep emotional suffering. This belief shapes both my personal values and my work with others. My training in Sandplay Therapy, which I recently enrolled in, has been deeply enriching and strengthened this belief and expanded my understanding of emotional healing and self-expression.”

Michal Troudart, the organizer of the course shares her reflections:

The Bi-National school is a unique experience for me. There is a sense of being together during difficult war times and working for a common goal of healing and forming cross-cultural friendships. The group was formed despite many challenges: We teach and communicate in English, a language that is a bridge between the Jewish and Palestinian participants but is also a barrier and a challenge for participants who don't speak it fluently. Some participants join us on Zoom, with all its technical challenges.

This group is much larger than groups that I usually teach, but nevertheless it is a working group of enthusiastic therapists, and I am excited to be part of their journey in acquiring the symbolic language of Sandplay. This course is

also blessed by a grant from ISST that allowed us to bring this project to fruition, as well as by a large and beautiful miniature collection donated by Deborah Bedford-Strohm.

Sandplay Teaching and Supervision with Zoom during Covid, War and Travel Restrictions

Report by Lenore F Steinhardt

In June 2024, Cindy Raskin and I held the final session of our two-year Sandplay training group. During these two years we often taught by Zoom, due to travel restrictions caused by covid and by war in Israel. On Zoom we and our guest lecturers presented Sandplay cases of children and adults, acute trauma and loss, Sandplay in psychiatry, feminine and masculine archetypes, autism and Buddhism.

Our guest lecturers were Michelle Mendelovitz Yuval, Liela Abramovitz and Bati Lowenstein. Several case presentations were preceded by Greek Myths with themes and relationships that still resonate in our psyche today, such as Demeter and Persephone, Eros and Psyche, Theseus and the Minotaur, Asclepius the Wounded Healer, Hecate and Odysseus.

The students presented their symbolpapers with themes of “Black and White”, the “Frog Symbol in the West and in Islam,” “Bridge,” “Turtle” and “From Hole to Cave.” We were pleased that we could complete the full Sandplay training program but decided not open a new group, but refer students to other Sandplay training programs that continue teaching in these difficult times.

Zoom was also crucial in being able to offer supervision groups to therapists working in improvised Sandplay rooms in hotels where hundreds of evacuees had been relocated after their homes were destroyed in the terrorist attack of October 7th 2023. In some open Zoom supervision groups for Sandplay Therapists working with war related trauma, other therapists were invited to join these sessions to observe, enabling valuable understanding of the symbols put forth by the protective inner psyche in a symbolic Sandplay process touching trauma that has no words.

The First Training Program in Northern Israel: Yeal Bruna and Robin Zeiger

In memory of Racheli Efrat Cohen, one of our treasured students who departed this world.

Under the vision of Yael Bruno, Sandplay Teacher and resident of the North, we began the first Sandplay training program in our country's periphery at the very moment that the October 7th war began. Some participants in our group were struck with great loss by the onset of the war. The training program helped support and heal the pain and loss of those who were evacuated from their homes and traumatized by the war. Thankfully most of our work was conducted in-person, despite the obstacles of travel. Five students completed their theoretical training. Perhaps the highlight of our year was a 1 ½ day retreat at the seaside where we created in the sand outside and watched rich presentations by the students of their symbol papers. In reflecting on the learning process, Adala Kamal Halabi from Daliat El-Carmel shared: *"...the studies enriched me not only with knowledge and tools, but also with a deeper sense of meaning for my role as a therapist."*

Galit Oren from Kibbutz Shamir said: *"We learned to connect worlds: the personal and the universal, the abstract and the concrete... These studies were an almost mystical experience for me and greatly expanded my understanding of playing in the sand, the human soul, and psychological therapy."*

Robin and Yael are planning to open a second cycle of Sandplay training in the North, with ten new students.



JISST Japan Society for ISST Members

President (Chair): Dr. Yasunobu Okada

ISST Board Representative: Dr. Yasuhiro Suzuki

Substitute for Dr. Yasunobu Okada)

Report by: Yasuhiro Suzuki

JISST has eight members (8 CST including 7 TM) including Dr. Yasuhiro Yamanaka (founding and honorary member of ISST), Prof. Takuji Natori (ISST President).

Dr. Miho Katsumata, (resigned associate member) who relocated to China, passed away last year.

Our main Japanese national Sandplay association, JAST, (The Japan Association of Sandplay therapy) has more than two thousand members.

Our General Assembly (GA) will take place online on 22nd Feb. 2026 online. The JAST 38th Congress took place on 25th & 26th Oct. 2025 in Tokyo, and the 39th Congress will take place on 31st Oct. & 1st Nov. 2026 in Kyoto.

Prof. Takuji Natori provided a seminar "Finding Contexts in a Series of Sandplay Pictures/Dreams and Archetypal Psychology" at the JAST 38th Congress on 25th Oct. 2025.

Dr. Yasuhiro Suzuki provided the limited training program of one-on-one type of making sand worlds in 2025. Prof. Natori will provide the limited training program of one-on-one type of making sand worlds in 2026.

As regards the ISST 2025 congress, many Japanese (both JISST members and JAST members, 24 in total) have attended. This is why JISST and JAST are cooperating and the member activities function beyond the framework of only JAST. That is, we see this with the presentations at ISST 2025 congress by JISST and JAST members as follows:

JISST members (3):

Natori (President): Some Reflections on the Other in Dream and Sandplay Therapy.

Suzuki (substitute BM): Second Sessions after an interval of Ten Years: a case study of a Japanese Female.

Ng (CST): Navigating darkness to resilience: Facing anxiety and depression by meeting the Wolf Within.

JAST members (5):

Ishi (Sophia Univ.): Sandplay Therapy with a girl with type 1 diabetes presenting with symptoms of eating disorder: an encounter with a female image cultivating the inner world.

Namba (Kobe Gakuin Univ.): Psychotherapy process at school with a 9-year-old boy who began psychotherapy due to violence from a neighbour. Tanaka (Bukkyo Univ.): Dialogue with the transcendent – Surname issue during marriage in Japan. Kume (Naruto University of Education): The Use of Sandplay in Educational Consultation Training for Schoolteachers. Fuwa (Kyoto University of Advanced Science): Psychological Trends of Japanese University Students and Characteristics of Sandtray Produced by University Students.

This is why JISST and JAST Japanese members are contributing together. We enjoyed and shared each presentation, discussing them together. Prof. Natori's lecture seemed to be a kind of "mourning work" about the late Prof. Kazuhiro Higuchi and the late Prof. Hayao Kawai, both were foundation members of ISST, seeing the pictures of the rainbow at heaven and Higuchi sensei in 2006.

The ITW 2006 took place in the same place, Egmond aan Zee, where Higuchi sensei and Natori-san (as his translator) visited from Japan, and I attended from Switzerland (I was studying at CGJZ at that time). The three of us stayed together at ITW 2006 and discussed the health condition about Prof. H. Kawai who had suffered from cerebral infarction there. It has been 19 years since then, and Natori sensei and I returned. This is why this occasion in 2025 was so meaningful, and I appreciated the honoring of Higuchi sensei and Kawai sensei.

And now, we Japanese come and gather together with new members. We had a sort of 'home party' at the beach eating Haring (pickled herring, a soul food in Netherlands). We shared and enjoyed the friendship (see Fig.1), and at the same time it was a kind of "mourning work" ritual for Higuchi sensei and Kawai sensei.



Fig. 1 Haring Party aan Zee. Aug. 2025

The new members may succeed in the fruitful legacy of both ISST foundation members.

I sincerely hope that more JAST members become ISST & JISST members. ■

In Memoriam

I would like to share memories of the late Dr. Rie Rogers Mitchell because ITW 2006 was the first time we met. After ITW 2006 was finished, the students (myself included) and Rie took the same taxi from hotel Zuiderduin to Schiphol airport. She was quiet at that time.

The second meeting was ISST 2009 Kyoto congress, and I, as one of the host staff, welcomed her to Kyoto. I attended her presentation “Psyche’s Path: Chaos to Beauty through the Alchemical Process” which was moderated by Dr. Heyong Shen on 12th Nov. 2009. Our third meeting was ISST 2011 at the Ittingen Congress. She gave me a miniature of butterfly (Fig. 2). I have kept this miniature in my practice, and when clients use this butterfly in the sandtray, I remember her and how the butterfly symbolizes psyche and transformation. I also associate “Psyche’s Path” which she presented in Kyoto with her spiritual presence/existence together with me. I perceive her soul is still transforming and stays beside me in this way.



fig, 2

KAST Korean Association of Sandplay Therapy

President: Sr. Hyerim Kim (Cecilia)

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

Address: 2F, 73, Dapsimni-ro 63-gil, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Phone: 82-2-2248-5504.

Website: <http://www.sandplay2004.or.kr>

E-mail: kast-sandplay@gmail.com

Membership Information: 58 ISST Teaching Members, 58 ISST Certified Sandplay Therapists

KAST has approximately 2,500 certified Sandplay therapists which reflects the strength of Sandplay Therapy in Korea. In 2025, 7 members became certified as ISST members and 6 as ISST Teaching Members. As of January 2026, KAST is represented by 116 ISST Members (58 Teaching Members and 58 Certified Sandplay Therapists), who are actively engaged in sandplay practice across a range of settings and age groups.

In 2025, the 41st KAST Conference was held virtually and welcomed nearly 400 participants. We were honored to host Gita M. Morena, Ph.D. and Yasuhiro Suzuki, M.D. Ph.D. On December 14, 2025, Dr. Morena delivered a lecture titled “The Wizard of Oz: An Archetypal Template for Healing,” and Dr. Suzuki presented “Transference and Countertransference in Sandplay Therapy: A Case Study of a Japanese Female.”

It had been 15 years since Dr. Morena last lectured for KAST, and our members were thrilled to welcome her back.

Dr. Suzuki has also been a valued supporter since before KAST had become an international Member Society, and has, over the years, generously reviewed many member’s symbol papers and final papers.



일정표 2025년 12월 14일(일)	
상임: 이영규 (국제모래놀이치료학회 부회장, 숭실대학교 사회복지학부 교수)	
총역: 왕영희 (국제 및 한국모래놀이치료학회 회장 겸비, 수필가이자 교토 문교대학교 및 스즈카 의료 과학대학원 임상심리학 전공)	
 기타 모레나 Gita Moreno	9:30 - 10:00 등록확인 및 온라인 입장, 인사말
	10:00 - 13:00 오즈의 마법사: 치유를 위한 원형적 구조 The Wizard of Oz: An Archetypal Template for Healing 강사: 기타 모레나(Gita Moreno, Ph.D) 국제모래놀이치료학회 및 미국모래놀이치료학회 회장 겸비, 국제심리분석가 일본 및 가리사토사, 《The Wisdom of Oz》 저자
	13:00 - 14:00 점심식사 및 휴식
 야스히로 스즈키 Yasuhiro Suzuki	14:00 - 14:30 새 모래놀이상담협회 정기총회
	14:30 - 17:30 모래놀이치료에서의 전이와 역전이: 일본 여성에 사례연구 Transference and Countertransference in Sandplay Therapy : A Case Study of Japanese Female 강사: 야스히로 스즈키(Yasuhiro Suzuki, MD, Ph.D) 국제모래놀이치료학회 남도지사 및 다자문화, 정신과 전문의, 국제심리분석가 일본 불교대학교 (Buddhism University) 임상심리학과 교수

Thirty-two KAST ISST Members participated in the 27th ISST Congress in the Netherlands, where they had invaluable opportunities to engage with internationally renowned scholars and Sandplay Therapists from various countries.

KAST provides a variety of training programs to enhance the professional competence of its members. In the second half of 2025, the following classes were offered: Folktales and Alchemy in Sandplay Therapy, Jung's Myth and Sandplay Therapy, Heroine Myths and Sandplay Therapy and Hieros Gamos Myths and Sandplay Therapy. In addition, a wide range of Sandplay Therapy supervision sessions are regularly conducted. beyond this, KAST continues to actively carry out many activities and initiatives.



The Korean Journal of Sandplay Therapy, Vol. 21, No. 2 (2025), has been published and featured five articles.

The journal is a peer-reviewed, biannual publication dedicated to advancing research in Sandplay Therapy and analytical psychology.

KAST supports court-referred adolescents by providing individual and group Sandplay Therapy as part of their 40-hour counseling education requirement. This includes practical sessions, group discussions, and theoretical education. Many participants experience meaningful inner change and greater stability as they return to school and everyday life. Korean court system Judges have visited the KAST office and continue to place confidence in the services delivered by KAST members.

In 2025, KAST was authorized to offer a new official credential, the Family Counselor certification. KAST has devoted many years to supporting healthy family communities, and this marked a deeply meaningful milestone. Through the Family Counselor training program, KAST equips trainees with Sandplay Therapy–based approaches and practice-oriented expertise that can be applied immediately in counseling settings.

In December 2025, KAST certified a total of 80 family counselors—including those at the professional and teaching member levels—through its training program and qualifying examination.



KSST Korean Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Mikyung Jang; Vice President: Seunghee Lee

ISST Board Representative: Sookyung Kwak

2025 KSST International Conference 2025: Rest and Self-Care for Therapists



The Korean Society for Sandplay Therapy held an international conference on Jeju Island on Dec. 13, 2025, under the theme “Rest and Self-Care for Therapists.” Participants could enjoy restful time amidst the blue sea and natural surroundings. This international conference was an opportunity to welcome Brenda Weinberg as a speaker for the keynote address. Brenda has shown unwavering affection and support since the founding of the KSST and now serves as an advisor. The program featured two thematic presentations, three case presentations, and a poster paper session, offering a rich and diverse exploration of both academic insight and clinical practice in Sandplay Therapy. The conference served as a meaningful occasion to reflect on the significance of self-care and rest as a therapist through the healing journey that unfolds in the sand.

The Jewel of Rest and “Being,” Found in Jeju as a Temenos

The KSST International Conference 2025, held on Jeju Island—an island of blue seas and warm sunlight— offered me a meaningful pause. Living in the whirlwind of “doing” as a therapist, I was awakened to the value of just “being.”

The theme of this conference, “Rest and Self-Care for Therapists,” is the challenge that every therapist faces.

As a panelist in the discussion session, I reflected on the therapist’s duality through the myth of Castor and Pollux, a story about the balance between “mortal Castor (doing),” who pours energy into caring for clients within a culture of one-sided caregiving, and “immortal Pollux (being),” who must preserve inner stillness and tend to the soul behind the scenes. In particular, alongside the “contemplative rest” reflected in the life stories of Jeju haenyeo (women divers), I shared the story of my father at the end of the discussion which again impressed



upon me the mystery of “being.”

Jung Min Boo ISST CST TM

My father, who passed away peacefully last July at the age of 92, swam in the sea near Yongduam until his mid-80s. I tried to stop him out of concern for his safety, but he would say, “There are birds and fish friends I always meet at a certain spot in the sea. Sometimes meeting them among nature’s gifts feels more comforting than being with my friends at the senior center.” My father had devoted his life to the “doing” of writing diaries and learning. When I asked him, lying in a hospital bed if he still wanted to jump into the sea and swim, he responded: “Even now, I am in the sea.” It seemed that he had gone beyond physical limitations and was dwelling in the inner sea—the realm of eternal being enjoyed by immortal Pollux. I wished with this story to emphasize that sometimes overworked clinical therapists can rest not externally but with an attitude: dwelling in the inner sea.

Jeju Island was itself a vast temenos. Just as a school counseling room becomes a safe psychological place of rest for children, Jeju allowed us to pick up once again the fruit containing jewels, i.e., Hanuman’s gift, that we had carelessly thrown away while devoting ourselves to daily duties and concerns.

The warm support of fellow colleagues and the contemplative serenity expressed in my father's words, "Even now, I am in the sea," became a precious signpost that helped restore my once-lost inner self.

KSST Selected for Early Childhood Emotional Growth Support Program by Hwaseong-Osan Office of Education

The services of this program included assessment through psychological testing, observation of play interactions within the classroom, evaluation of parent-child interactions, play therapy and Sandplay therapy, as well as parent education.

KSST Designated as a Psychological Counseling and Advisory Institution for Student Victims and Perpetrators of School Violence by the Gyeonggido Office of Education

In this program, the KSST offered parent education and consultation to parents experiencing psychological difficulties in the aftermath of school violence.

Post-Adoption Services for Adoptive Families: Cultivating the Family Mind Garden

Since 2024, the KSST has served as an institution implementing projects of the National Center for the Rights of the Child, providing a range of post-adoption services to support the healthy growth and emotional stability of adoptive families in Korea. This support project is designed to help adoptees and their families in Korea to settle stably within their homes, establish the adoptee's identity, and build a foundation of social support through customized assistance tailored to their life stages.

Publication News

Group Sandplay Therapy for Children and Adolescents: Theory and Practice

Co-authored by Mikyung Jang, Sehwa Lee, Yoon Cho, Sunhee Kim, and Yeoreum Lee (Publisher: Hakjisa).



LSST Latvian Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Līga Rāviņa.

Vice President and ISST Board Representative: Vera Ščerbakova

LSST AUTUMN/WINTER ONLINE SEMINAR 05/12/2025

“The three-dimensional space of a sandbox. How do you navigate it by looking at and understanding sand pictures?” by Maria Kendler. The presenter addressed fundamental issues regarding the understanding of symbolic expression in Sandplay paying special attention to the frequently used four-quadrant interpretation scheme: its origin and reflection in the literature, as well as an empirical study that tested the validity of this scheme. The participants of the seminar were particularly interested in less schematic approaches to working with the spatial dimension of Sand pictures.

Maria Kendler, MPhil, MSc, SGSST and ISST Teaching Member, is a clinical psychologist with professional experience in individual and institutional settings. She is the President of the Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy (SGSST) and for 10 years has been the Editor-in-Chief of the Swiss German Journal of Sandplay Therapy “Zeitschrift für Sandspieltherapie”.

LSST SUMMER SCHOOL 15/08/2025

The annual Summer School of the Latvian Sandplay Therapy Society took the form of a creative masterclass. Its theme was “Home”. Sandra Ķikuste read her symbol work “Home” in the theoretical part of the Summer School. In the practical part, the participants made their own houses from clay under the guidance of teacher and ceramist Leva Meijere. In this process of creation, and in the presence of each other and nature, the participants got closer to themselves through the clay and saw “their own homes”. These clay houses are now used in the healing process of Sandplay, creating, nurturing, enjoying, maintaining, restoring, protecting and caring for the **feeling of home**.



LSST SPRING SEMINAR 10/05/2025

The seminar entitled “Taming and integrating unconscious forces in Sandplay Therapy with children” took place in Riga was presented by Maria Kendler. There were 212 participants – the maximum number of participants so far, and it was attended by seven Lithuanian colleagues who are studying Sandplay Therapy with Vera Ščerbakova (LSST, ISST TM).

The seminar was in three parts.

In Part 1 “The History of the International Society for Sandplay Therapy (ISST) – a container for training and professional exchange about Kallfian Sandplay”. The LSST representative on ISST board V. Ščerbakova spoke about the 40th anniversary of ISST and Maria Kendler described the founding and activities of ISST in the past. The seminar participants attended to this topic with special attention and interest.

In Part 2 “The sensorial aspect of Sandplay Therapy and the child’s growing capacity to symbolize”, M. Kendler focused on developmental psychology and how the capacity of symbolization can be observed and supported through Sandplay Therapy.

In Part 3 “Must Theseus kill the Minotaur? Overcoming destructive aggression in sandplay therapy” she demonstrated a touching case, based on

the ancient Greek myth of the Minotaur, showing how Sandplay Therapy can help a child in processing destructive impulses.



*The Board of the LSST with Maria Kendler
(from left to right: Sanita Mende, Irana Kaminska, Vera Ščerbakova,
)Maria Kendler, Liga Rāviņa and Aija Baha-Velvele)*



NVST Dutch Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Jellemieke Hees-Stauthamer

ISSST Board representative: Jellemieke Hees-Stauthamer

Reported by: Theresa Foks-Appelman

The Congress



We can look back with gratitude on the experience of hosting the 27th International Congress, "Changing Horizons, Encountering the Other in Sandplay Therapy," in the Netherlands.

We could express our success in numbers such as: participants in person: 297; online: 27; countries: 36; keynote speakers: 11; case studies: 36; seminars: 11; poster presentations: 7; experiential workshops: 7; onsite recordings: 42.

But above all, we experienced the profound encounter with the Other in all possible forms and meanings. Especially we are thankful and delighted that everything has proceeded so successfully that we were able to welcome so many participants from all over the world. The presentations were of high quality and resonated deeply with the congress theme.

As we gaze at the horizon— sometimes crystal clear, sometimes shrouded in mist— the distance seems to depend on where you stand. We do not know

exactly what lies beyond that horizon, but we are prepared to embark on new adventures, driven by curiosity and guided by a steady compass. Journeying together, listening to one another, and learning from one another—that is what binds us, and that was the true spirit of this congress. Thanks to everyone involved.

This would not have been possible without the support of all the Congress committee members across five countries: John Paulet from Belgium, Marianne Molbech from Denmark, Retha Roux and Braam Beetge from South Africa and Olga Lipadatova from Portugal!

After the congress the Congress committee met again to reflect on the experience. We are pleased to conclude the congress not only with a positive financial outcome but, above all, with the positive and heartfelt feedback received from participants.

A New Challenge: The Progress of Our Association

In September our association held a General Members' meeting. Our Association is once again driven by students, which is vital since four of our five ISST original members are now retired.

A wish of the new students is to be able to follow a full training course with a fixed program. We are going to investigate whether this is possible under our own management or at an existing training institute. Both possibilities are currently being studied, and we will do our best to be able to start this in some form in September 2026. If an association has experience with this and would like to share it with us, we would love to hear from you.

We are also looking for teachers to lead training sessions in the Netherlands, either in person during weekends or online. Please contact us if you would like to contribute.

To our delight, several new candidates have recently signed up who have already started their own process. We are considering setting up a training plan, like other associations, in which students can follow the theory and supervision over a period of more than 2 years, write the symbol studies, and receive a personal process supervisor for help and advice on writing the final case study.

New members who can also take over the NVST board in the future are necessary to guarantee the continuity of the association. Obtaining the ISST certificate is one of the requirements for this. If we cannot attract enough newly members, we may ultimately have to dissolve the association—a scenario we are determined to prevent.

Establishing a training institute, such as an Academy for Sandplay Therapy, is one of the possibilities to secure continuation and recognition. In the coming weeks, we will deliberate on the best way to achieve this and to secure the necessary funding for this.

Email: info@sandplaynederland.nl



Dutch General Meeting with some Members September 2025



SASTS South African Sandplay Therapy Society

President: Braam Beetge; Vice-president: Retha Roux

ISST Board representative: Braam Beetge

Reported by: Retha Roux

Expanding Horizons

The South African Sandplay Therapy Society is growing into its third year in the ISST garden.

Looking back

Since 2023, the root system and canopy of our society have established itself firmly under the steady maintenance of the executive team. Our president Braam Beetge continued to anchor the society with his experience and wisdom, and the team ensured the consolidation of an annual webinar-programme hosting international and local teachers. The programme included outstanding seminars by Judy Zappacosta (USA) on “Loving our Brokenness: The Human Dimension of the Archetype of the Black Madonna”, Ulrich Gundermann (Germany) on “Oscillation along the way: Process in Sandplay” and Dr Audrey Punnett (USA) on “Navigating Marital Rupture: A Developmental Perspective.”

We hosted the second successful Symbol Shower event in June 2025. Formidable symbol studies were presented on the Centaur by Dr Elizabeth Vos, a Jungian Analyst and member of SAAJA (South African Association of Jungian Analysts), “The Eland” by Jessica Laubscher, and “The Owl” by Braam Beetge. Group supervision continued under Braam’s competent guidance, and accredited ISST therapists and teachers provided individual supervision and personal process opportunities to our current membership, as well as to a number of newcomers who are interested in joining the Intensive Training block planned for September 2026.

Spreading our branches

Braam Beetge and Retha Roux served on the organizing committee of the 27th ISST congress in the Netherlands and contributed key skills to ensure the success of the event. A delegation of five SASTS members attended the congress in Egmond aan Zee, three of whom presented their work. As the final keynote speaker, Braam talked about “Encountering the Other on Safari

in South Africa: A Testimony to the Wilderness in Kalfjian Jungian Sandplay Therapy”, a presentation that touched the large audience deeply.

Dr Judith Bredekamp presented the findings of her exciting research on practical approaches to involve the parents of children who are engaged in Sandplay process without neglecting confidentiality. Retha Roux hosted an experiential workshop on SoulCollage® as an active imagination practice. We were encouraged by the positive feedback from our international colleagues and feel fortunate to be part of our young and dynamic society.

Looking forward

The term of the current executive has run its course, and a new Executive Committee will be voted for in February 2026. The current executive members are grateful for the continued support of a loyal membership of clinicians who love Kalfjian Jungian Sandplay Therapy.

May our community explore many more horizons together with the ISST in the years to come.



*SASTS delegation of the 2025 ISST congress:
Retha Roux, Judith Bredekamp, Braam Beetge, Reyhana Seedat and Sylvia Clutter*



SGSST Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Maria Kendler; Vice-President: Alexandra Moser Nura

ISST Board Representative: Ruth Noel-Hermann

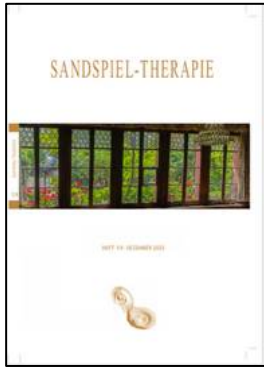


In Switzerland at this time of year, it is the winter-holidays, which gives one the opportunity to go to the mountains for skiing and being close to nature. When the snow is falling, you experience how millions of tiny snow-crystals, dance lightly through cold, clear air, trans-forming the landscape into a mystical fairy-tale-space. Then you are glad to find shelter under the roof of a warm wooden house.

Martin Kalff moving out of the house Hinter Zünen 8.

Many of us experienced the unique feeling of shelter and mystery when invited by Martin Kalff to visit the old house where Dora Kalff developed Sandplay Therapy. In November 2025, Martin Kalff moved out of this house, taking with him the Sandplay collection, which will find a new home in Zurich, in his flat and office.

To remember this house with its particular spirit and to reflect on the sense and meaning of the outer as well as the inner experience of houses, a special volume of the German-speaking Sandplay journal (Schweizer für Sandspiel-Therapie) has been published, dedicated to the House Hinter Zünen 8 in



Zollikon. Sandplay-therapists from several countries have written contributions.

Sandplay-training – leading to new members as Sandplay Therapists

Sandplay training is still very active in Switzerland, currently with a 3-year-training in Zurich, entering its final year, and one in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, near Vevey above lake Geneva. This began in September 2025 and will last 3 years, both trainings are attended by 12 – 15 students. For students interested in deepening their knowledge in specific therapeutic fields, such as psychopathology, psychodynamic and the therapeutic position, as related to Sandplay Therapy, we decided at a Teaching Member's retreat to provide additional trainings.

With the commitment of the students, the Swiss Sandplay Society is slowly but steadily growing, particularly in the French part of Switzerland, and Sandplay becomes increasingly rooted. We are very pleased to add a newly qualified therapist: Caroline Cottet-Klaus, a therapist trained in psychoanalytical methods as well as Jungian Sandplay, she works magnificently with Kalfian Sandplay, integrating her expertise and experience.

Sandplay-day, open for all interested in Sandplay

Apart from the trainings, which are open only for pre-qualified professionals, the Swiss Sandplay Society regularly organises a day event to promote Sandplay more widely and give the public the opportunity to get to know Sandplay, sometimes leading to an interest for our training. This was held on December 13, from the flyers to the delicious buffet, as always it was organised in a perfect, loving way by Annabelle Aebersold, Viola Scheller and Monika Mäder. Ulrich Gundermann presented a journey with Sandplay through different ages and Ruth Noel-Hermann presented a case-study on attachment disorder. Maria Kendler translated in French, combining hybrid

technology, a challenging but worthwhile task, with 20 people in person and 40 online.

Online presentations from Swiss and German Teaching Members

Teaching Sandplay online as a format becomes more successful. Therefore, Swiss and German Teaching Members created a biannual conference covering various themes in order to introduce Sandplay to the wider public. Easily accessible and inexpensive, this format reached many, and was attended by 90 participants, thus lowering the threshold to access Sandplay professionally and inviting those interested to join our training.



Dec. 13 Sandplay Day: (left-right) Ulrich Gundermann, Ruth Noel-Hermann, Annabelle Aebersold, Monika Mäder, Viola Scheller and Maria Kendler



STA Sandplay Therapists of America

President: Jacquelyn Kelley; Vice President: Theresa Hasting

ISST Board Representatives: Lorraine Freedle and Jacquelyn Kelley

Our New President.

On January 1, 2026 Jacquelyn “Jackie” Kelley began a two-year term as STA President. Jackie is a clinical social worker with a specialty in thanatology and a teaching member of STA/ISST. She maintains a private practice in Plano, Texas. Dr. Theresa Hasting, RSP has stepped into the role of Vice President and Dr. David Dermott, past president. STA expresses sincere gratitude to David for his leadership and service and welcomes Jackie in her new role.

As Jackie began her term, she greeted the membership as follows, “I step into the role of President with gratitude, humility, and a profound respect for those who have carried STA forward to this moment. I am honored to walk alongside each of you as we continue strengthening our community, deepening our training, and nurturing the transformative heart of Sandplay work. Let us enter this new year with curiosity. May we remain attentive to the small synchronicities, to the inner images that arise unbidden, and to the symbolic threads that guide our work. Together, let us explore what Jung called the psyche’s “existence beyond time and space” – the very terrain where healing begins.”

STA National Conference:

Please join us for *Crossroads: Transformation in Sandplay Therapy* from June 11-14, 2026 at the Loyola University Lakeside Campus in Chicago, Illinois.

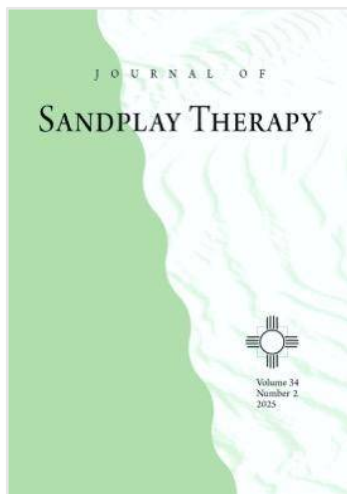


Togetherness at the Crossroads by Ellen Serle LeBel

Our conference image, “Togetherness at the Crossroads” created by Ellen Serle LeBel is a mandala image representing a symbolic intersection where all the pathways and directions form a unified image of interconnection and balance, surrounded by the waves and sky of the great lake.

The image also represents the crown chakra, symbolizing wisdom, universal consciousness, thought, self-knowledge and unity. Dr. Dyane Sherwood, Jungian Analyst and teaching member of STA/ISST will be the keynote speaker, presenting on *The Self at the Crossroads: Microcosm and Macrocosm*.

Journal of Sandplay Therapy- Browse Online Articles and Abstracts!



The *Journal of Sandplay Therapy*® now 35 years running, is a peer-reviewed journal circulated in 28 countries and published twice yearly in English under the editorship of Joyce Camuyrano Cunningham Email:

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

over 200 full-text open access articles, research, and reflections. Search abstracts in multiple languages including English, German, French, Hebrew, Spanish, Portuguese, with keyword searches available in Japanese, Italian, Chinese, Hindi and Romanian.

Volume 34, Number 2 2025 was dedicated to the life and work of Dr. Rie Rogers Mitchell.

Journal of Sandplay Therapy, Volume 34, Number 2, 2025



STANZA Sandplay Therapy Association of New Zealand and Australia

President: Mary Raftopoulos

ISST Board Representatives: Heather Lesley-Swan

Report by: Heather Lesley-Swan

“Reaching out” is STANZA’s motto. We need to reach out far and wide to stay close together in Sandplay – and wow, has this been a year for it!

More than forty people flew from all corners of Australia and New Zealand to attend the Sandplay Symposium organised by Mary Raftopoulos (STANZA’s Chair), Sarah Gibson, Jean Parkinson and Carina Conradie in Melbourne.

Perhaps Jean and Carina travelled to deliver clinical papers at the 27th Congress, however, - both about furthest, around 2,000 Kms. That was nowhere near how far Carina and Sarah 17,000 Kms. I will fly a mere 1,000 Kms in March to present an in-person weekend program, and then there is another program planned for New Zealand in August, again several thousand Kms for at least two of STANZA’s Teaching Members. And all of this is in addition to the learning opportunities every TM is offering via digital platforms or in-person in their home cities.

The Executive Committee members of STANZA led by Mary Raftopoulos are committed to going out of their way to connect with all candidates working towards certification. Their reward is that STANZA now has 42 Associate Members. In 2024 STANZA had 34 members, and at the end of 2025 our CSTs, TMs or Associate Members had risen to 42. Our Associate Members participate in around five Zoom group meets a year, presented also by Executive Committee members. These forums build closeness and connection within our Sandplay community, despite the vast distances between our homes, practices and the people we work with in Sandplay Therapy. Time has rewarded the investment of energy, and now STANZA, its members and our wider community stand proudly embracing the rewards, and welcoming more. Our newest CST, Mironne Golan is STANZA’s Public Officer. Her role is to keep STANZA’s legal requirements in order, so that all members enjoy the benefits of STANZA’s respect in our community.



*Jean Parkinson, Mary Raftopoulos (STANZA Chair),
Heather Lesley-Swan, Sarah Gibson and Carina Conradie,
with participants at the Sandplay Symposium in Melbourne, Australia*

We were all saddened by the loss of Rie Rogers Mitchell, each of us having different relationships with her over the years. Jean Parkinson, one of STANZA's New Zealand Executive Committee members, has sent comments, echoed by all, to express both our grief and our enormous respect for knowing Rie and her work.



TSST Taiwanese Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Pi-Ling Chen

ISST Board Representative: Chih-An Tang

Report by: Yuchi Liu

The Summons of the Soul: Clinical Reflections from the 27th International Sandplay Therapy Congress

I. Journeying to the Congress: From Learning to an Inward Return

In the summer of 2025, I travelled to the seaside town of Egmond aan Zee along the North Sea in the Netherlands to attend the 27th International Sandplay Therapy Congress (ISST). This was my second participation in an international Sandplay congress, following my earlier experience in Berlin. Unlike my first attendance, which was marked by enthusiasm and a strong focus on learning, this congress was experienced more as a summons of the soul –inviting a return inward, a reconnection with my original motivation for engaging in Sandplay Therapy, and a reflection on my evolving relationship with this approach.

As my professional path has unfolded, I have come to recognize that becoming a Sandplay Therapist is not solely a matter of acquiring theoretical knowledge or clinical techniques, rather, it is a long-term and deeply formative life process. Personal analysis, clinical practice, and supervision continuously interact, shaping the therapist's inner stability, capacity for reflection, and clinical presence.

II. A Shared Psychic Language in Cross-Cultural Exchange

Throughout the congress, presenters shared a wide range of clinical cases, practical experiences, and facilitated experiential workshops. Engaging in dialogue and learning with Sandplay Therapists from diverse cultural and national backgrounds once again highlighted for me the inherently cross-cultural nature of Sandplay Therapy.

Despite differences in language, cultural context, and clinical settings, there was a striking convergence in therapists' understanding of psychic development, traumatic experience, and symbolic transformation. Across many presentations, I repeatedly observed how a single grain of sand or a small miniature within the Sand tray could carry profound psychological

meaning. When verbal language is insufficient to convey inner experience, symbols emerge as an alternative mode of expression.

In this sense, sand and symbol form a shared psychic language that transcends words, allowing universal human experiences to be expressed, recognized, and held.

III. When Language Is Insufficient: The Sandtray as a Space of Containment

In one case presentation, the client, Lehua, frequently whispered, “I don’t know,” during the therapeutic process. When language could no longer contain her inner experience, her bodily presence and Sand tray creations began to speak in its place. Through the concrete expressions within the Sand tray, emotions and experiences that had not yet been verbalized gradually emerged within the therapeutic space. The therapist’s steady, receptive presence allowed these unformulated psychological contents to be held within a safe relational field—an experience of containment.

This clinical process served as a reminder that the essence of Sandplay Therapy does not lie primarily in technique or interpretation, but in the therapist’s capacity to offer a space that can genuinely hold the psyche.

IV. The Therapist’s Path: Integrating Professional Practice and Inner World

Jung wrote in *The Red Book*, “I had to become aware that I had lost my soul.” When individuals become overly identified with external rationality, scientific thinking, and social roles, they may lose contact with what Jung called the *Spirit of the Depths*. Only by first acknowledging this loss can one begin the journey of re-encountering the soul. Similarly, contemporary Jungian analyst James Hollis writes in *The Summons* that when individuals begin to question meaning and purpose, they may hear a knock at the door—a summons to show up and pay attention. This call arises from the autonomous Other, which Jung referred to as the psyche or the soul.

Following the congress, these ideas resonated with me more deeply, underscoring that a therapist’s professional development involves not only the refinement of theory and technique, but also an ongoing commitment to inner reflection, awareness of countertransference, and sustained connection with one’s own inner life.

On my final day in the Netherlands, I came to understand that this journey was not simply an academic event, but an inwardly meaningful experience—a summons of the soul. It invited continued attentiveness to inner experience and re-affirmed a fundamental clinical truth:

“A therapist can kindle light in others only by being willing to illuminate their own inner world.”

V. Walking Together with Sandplay Therapists Around the World

During this congress, the sharing and exchange of handcrafted miniatures provided meaningful opportunities to meet and connect with Sandplay Therapists from around the world. Reflecting on my first participation in an international congress six years ago, I recall a deep longing to become part of the Sandplay community. Returning to the congress six years later, I clearly sensed that I am now able to engage in genuine dialogue within this community and to learn from the diverse clinical experiences of fellow therapists. The reflections and experiences gained from this congress will continue to nourish my professional practice in Sandplay Therapy. In my future clinical work, I hope to bring this cross-cultural understanding of the psyche into the therapeutic setting, while remaining attentive to both the universality and uniqueness of the human soul.



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS REPORT

Board Representative: Marianne Molbech (IM Denmark)

The IM/IRC group continues to meet online approximately every second month. Our meetings take place on two different time slots to accommodate as many as possible to join. We start with a presentation and a short overview of interesting and perhaps challenging things going on in the respective participants' world and work. We also share knowledge of upcoming events in countries around the world. We love the gentle tone of the gatherings and enjoy sharing across countries. Our meetings for the next half year will be on February 9th, April 27th and June 29th. These dates have been announced in emails to IRCs and IMs and are shared here as well for those interested.



We are glad to announce that a new training group has started in Saint Paul de Vence, France. A photo by Caroline Hedrich below shows the participants at their initial meeting in Fall 2025. We congratulate you and wish you all the best for the coming learning process.

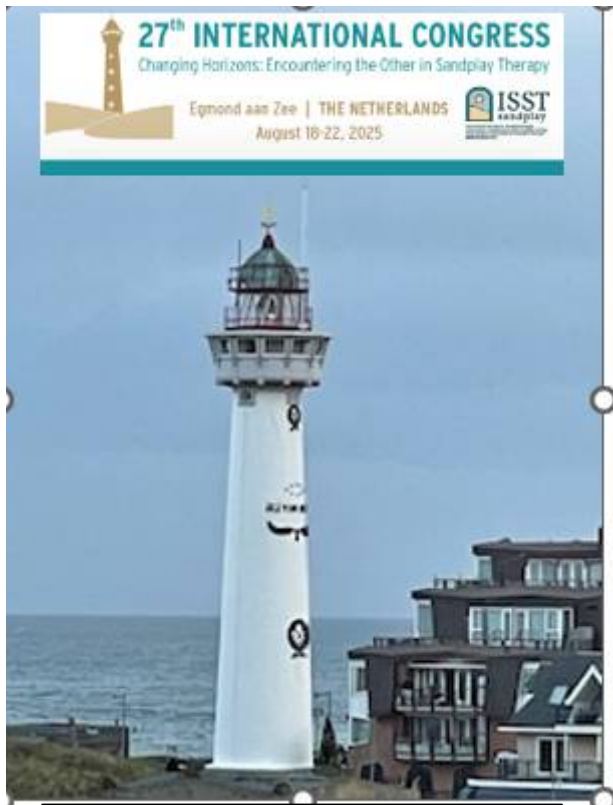
New Sandplay training group, Saint Paul de Vence, France Photo:L Caroline Heidric

We are also pleased to share the development of Sandplay training in Poland, Russia and Denmark with students, IRCs and IMs working towards certification and Teaching Member status. These efforts will hopefully bring us closer together and increase benefits to new practitioners of Jungian Sandplay Therapy .If you haven't received an email with information about our meetings and want to participate as an IM or IRC, please send your name and ISST status to mariannemolbech@gmail.com and we will arrange for you to join us via Zoom. Or if you not yet registered as an ISST student and would like to attend our meetings please send me an email with you qualifications and why you are interested so that we might add you to the group.

WARM GREETINGS FROM THE ISST 27TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

Report on behalf of the congress committee: Marianne Molbech (I.M.)

The Committee of the 27th International Congress of Sandplay Therapy 2025 in The Netherlands sends all our ISST members warm greetings. As we look back at the many hours spent preparing for the Congress, we feel grateful for so many good meetings, interesting presentations and the friendly atmosphere that the venue provided. Now that the final counting has been done, we want to share with you that there were 307 live participants at the congress and 25 online participants, coming from 36 countries around the world. Thank you!



*Photo and photo collage by
Marianne Molbech. Photo of the
lighthouse in Egmond Aan Zee, The
Netherlands*



CONTRIBUTION FROM THE ISST DEVELOPING GROUP IN ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Report: Evgenia Troshikhina (CST-ISST)

I am very pleased to be a new ISST Individual Member, and pleased to write a few words about our developing group. Dr. Alexander Esterhuyzen is the ISST liaison for the St. Petersburg group and I am the local coordinator of it.

Historical insight



In the last years of the 20th century, almost 30 years ago, June Atherton (formerly Quinn-Berger) brought Sandplay Therapy to Russia. Dora Kalff lectured frequently in the 1960's and one of her students was June Atherton (Ireland). She first met Dora Kalff at the University of Southern California the late 1960's. Much later in 1996, June Atherton was a visiting Professor of Saint-Petersburg State University where we had the opportunity to connect with her. She visited St. Petersburg one or twice a year teaching seminars in Sandplay and Jungian psychology and analysis.

June Atherton (left) with her Italian friend

She acquainted us with Kalff's method and inspired our group of therapists in supervision meetings. She generously shared her knowledge and the warmth of her heart with us, her students. She herself was not an ISST member but inspired us to study Jungian analysis in the Institute (Zurich) and to become Sandplay Therapists.

June Atherton noticed that Sandplay is deceptively simple. The figurines, as symbols provided by the therapist, are often so archetypal that they provide a powerful release for blocked or 'blacked out' portions of the psyche. Because of this universal, mythical quality they may help the client to see universal truths and clarify their own personal myth. Even when this truth is ugly, or the myth tragic, there is a release and expiation in the doing. Ghost and terrors of the night evaporate in the daylight of the Sandplay.

The participants

In 2013 I participated in a Sandplay seminar in Zurich taught by three teachers: Ruth Ammann, Martin Kalff, and Marianne Meister-Notter. Later,

several teachers came to St. Petersburg, among them Ruth Ammann and Alex Esterhuyzen. A few years later, our group participated in seminars led by Carlo Ruffino and Betty Jackson. Our group continues to grow and now includes therapists from Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Novosibirsk, Samara, and Kazan. Some of us participated in an ITW in Latvia and Malta and hope to join the next ITW in Turkey. Several people are on their way to becoming certified ISST members under the guidance of Carlo Ruffino and Maria Kendler. We currently have two ongoing supervision groups led by Carlo Ruffino. Ivan Fiev and Irina Grigoreva are writing their final case. We are working towards the formation of a Russian Sandplay Society, RAST, as a Member Society of ISST. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to develop personally and professionally and become a Jungian Analyst, a member of IAAP and now a member of ISST.

Currently, our developing group consists of about 60 psychologists and psychiatrists. Our members work in diverse settings, including universities, technical colleges, psychological centers, psychiatric hospitals for adults and children, as well as pediatric oncology hospitals. We regularly meet to discuss theoretical and practical issues and conduct supervision consultations. Several people have volunteered to coordinate their local activities. I also visit some cities and lead seminars on Jungian psychology and Sandplay Therapy. Together we organize seminars for our group with teaching members of ISST. In Vladivostok, Valentina Prokopenko is the liaison for her group, supported by Roman Skidan, in Samara the liaison is Anastasia Aleeva, supported by Tatiana Kornilova, who is also studying in The Institute (Zurich).



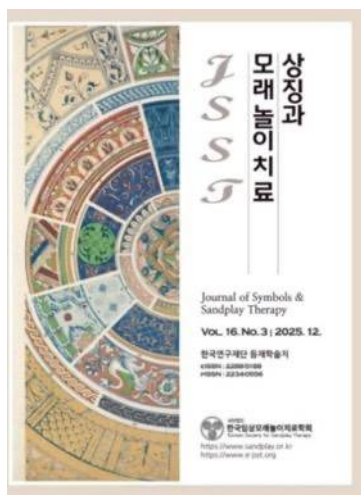
Ruth Amman with the St. Petersburg group 2014

Bookshelf-1

Publication of *Journal of Symbols & Sandplay Therapy*, Vol. 16 No. 3 (KCI-Indexed), and Call for Papers for Vol. 17 No. 1

< Publication of *Journal of Symbols & Sandplay Therapy*, Vol. 16 No. 3 >

Report: Mikyung Jang



〔Vol. 16 No. 3〕 The Wound of

Independence: Animal Symbols of the Negative Mother (Sunghee Yoon)

Vol. 16 No. 3〕 The Effects of Sandplay Therapy on Adolescents' Self-Esteem, Quality of Peer Relationships, and Saturation of Cerebral Blood Oxygen (Jo Eun, Lee, Jua Maeng)

〔Vol. 16 No. 3〕 A Case Study of Sandplay Therapy for a Child Victim of Sexual Abuse

(Yeoreum Lee)

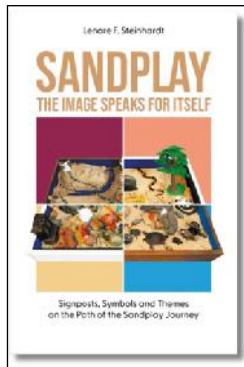
The Journal of Symbols & Sandplay Therapy (JSST), the official journal of the Korean Society for Sandplay Therapy (KSST), is a KCI-indexed publication issued thrice-yearly in both Korean and English. JSST welcomes a wide range of submissions, including quantitative and qualitative research, clinical effectiveness studies, symbolism, and in-depth case reports. We particularly encourage scholarly inquiries into the methodologies of Sandplay Therapy. Furthermore, we invite pioneering studies that apply Sandplay therapy to emerging fields and diverse client populations, aiming to broaden the horizons of its effectiveness as we explore the unconscious in pursuit of individuation. Contributions from researchers and clinicians from any country are warmly welcomed. You can download whole articles for free from the KSST website.

Bookshelf-2

“SANDPLAY: THE IMAGE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, SIGNPOSTS, SYMBOLS AND THEMES ON THE PATH OF THE SANDPLAY JOURNEY”

Lenore F. Steinhardt

Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London 2025



In this book, published in English in London in September, 2025 by Jessica Kingsley Publishers, eleven chapters begin their journey through the rich contents of understanding the Sandplay process with close observation of natural and clinical environments, unusual Sandplay settings and their details, understanding the concrete and symbolic Sandplay setting including the therapist as part of it.

The chapters progress with case studies of children and adults with amplifications from nature, art, mythology and fairy tales and application of the theories of Margaret Lowenfeld, D.W. Winnicott, Edward Edinger, Erich Neumann, James Hillman and C.G. Jung.

The setting becomes a “power spot” that nourishes our inborn creative urge until a “site-specific” Sandplay is created in the sand tray. All three levels of the psyche, the collective unconscious, the personal unconscious and consciousness may emerge symbolically at various moments in the process with the support of objects, sand and water, the co-transference, and that of unseen helping entities. A Sandplay is physically small but immense in scope, just as the imagination is limitless. Every image speaks for itself. Understanding a Sandplay and a Sandplay process requires discovery of ways to discern meaning that is beyond visible boundaries and ordinary views. The book includes many sources that help to identify stages, symbols and themes that carry the Sandplay journey toward its goal. My own appreciation of Sandplay’s international community has grown through teaching and supervising Sandplay therapists in countries other than my own, and has sharpened recognition of cultural differences, deep universal themes and collective phenomena in the sand tray. In the first printed version of this new book there are 112 black and white photos that can also be accessed electronically in color. In the printed book a color insert of 32 Sandplays is included. In the electronic version all images are in color.



IN MEMORIAM RIE ROGERS MITCHELL

In this Issue, our former chairman Rie Rogers was commemorated in several articles with special memories. Afterwards we received so many heartwarming tributes, memories, and photographs following the news of the passing of our former president, we have decided to publish a **Special supplement with this Newsletter In Memoriam Rie Rogers Mitchell**



An Invitation: Special Projects of ISST Members

We invite all ISST members to write us if they have a special project they would like to share in forthcoming issues of the Newsletter.

Please send your texts to Maria Elisabetta Quaglino, ISST Newsletter Editor, email: betsy_quaglino@hotmail.com

Please note that the projects will be included at the discretion of the editors who seek to uphold the interests of the whole ISST community. The Editors reserve the right to request changes in content. It is important for contributions to reflect the Society's ethos and purpose and to be consistent with our Code of Ethics.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

An Invitation to a Collective Reflection for Therapists from Agata Giza-Zwierzchowska, CST, Poland

[Editor's Note: Agata has confirmed that she will share the outcome of her research question with the Sandplay Community through the Newsletter. We hope this will encourage others to think about interesting questions and observations that contribute to the Sandplay Community]

With warmest regards and curiosity about your inner landscape

Dear Sandplay Colleagues, I would like to invite you to take part in an inner, creative and reflective exploration built around one simple, yet profound question: "Where do I "keep" my Client? "Where does my Client live in my life? A Client may live in memory, in the body, in an image, in a dream, in the heart, in the countertransference, in the sand tray, in a notebook, or somewhere that has never yet been named. There is no obvious or single correct answer. If this question resonates with you, I will be deeply grateful to receive your contribution, a response in any form that emerges in your imagination: a photograph, a few sentences, a drawing, a Sandplay image, a symbolic object or figurine, a metaphor, or something entirely different.

All ideas are welcome, perhaps one, or even a few, from both experienced therapists and those still in training. Please send your reflections to: agatagiza10@gmail.com



Announcement regarding recording of the congress presentations

By: Theresa Foks-Appelman

We hereby inform you that all recorded presentations have been given to the NVST by the conference organization. Theresa Foks was able to download these onto a USB stick.

We would like to give presenters the opportunity to send a request via email to have their own presentation sent to them.

We wish to explicitly emphasize that the recorded presentation will only be provided to the person who gave the presentation and personally requests it. Only the recordings of the poster presentations, which feature two people in one recording, will be sent to both presenters.

Requests can **only** to:

Email: sandplay.nvst@gmail.com

Please mention

1. Your name as published on the program
2. Day of your presentation

As well indicate whether you presented as:

- Keynote
- Seminar
- Case study
- Poster presentation
- Research



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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