

## *The Power of Community*

*Dear fellow Bonding Psychotherapists,*

*First of all, I wish each and every one of you all the best for the coming year, and that your personal and professional goals are successfully realized.*

For the year 2010, I want to propose the following motto: **The Power of Community.** One great strength of Bonding Psychotherapy is its use of the group (or community) to support individuals in reaching their full potential as humans. Furthermore, the B.P. community itself can aid us to discover and integrate our own power and beauty. This potency of community can be felt at all levels of the B.P. world: at the level of the client/patient; at the level of the individual therapist; and at the level of professional identification as a member of the ISBP.

For the client: Anyone who has experienced the openness and acceptance of a B.P. group has witnessed the healing power therein. Therapeutic healing obviously includes gaining awareness of, and changing pathological patterns, working through biographical themes, and so on. At the same time, we should not underestimate the impact of the group members serving as witnesses for one another. Being understood and accepted by concerned others helps us make peace with the painful past, and helps create “a safe base” at the level of the group as a holding community.

For the individual practitioner of B.P., community can mean his institution, or his or her national chapter. The yearly meetings of the chapters, as well as any further events, trainings, etc. sponsored by the chapter, are important occasions to renew professional and personal bonds. Bonding Psychotherapy presents some special challenges for a therapist; for this reason, making active use of the support from the national chapter is especially important.

At an international level, we in B.P. have a great treasure of possibilities. Did you know that the ISBP has chapters from three continents and 11 different nations, all with their own cultural heritages, languages and histories? The International Conference takes place every two years. Every time that I have attended, I have felt renewed and enlivened, personally and in my professional work as a B.P. therapist. Even when a trip across the Atlantic was necessary, I always felt, looking back, that the rewards of attending the International Conferences (as well as the European meetings in Italy) were definitely worth the effort involved in going.

# Looking back

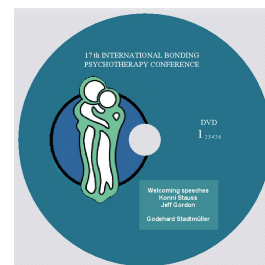
## 17th International Conference in Bad Gronenbach

Looking back at the past year, the 17th International Conference in Bad Grönenbach was surely a highlight. For me, this was definitely an example of community in action. Thanks to so many people working together, we experienced a well run and highly professional conference. The following folks deserve to be mentioned: Konni Stauss, for the initial planning and contact with the Helios Klinik Bad Grönenbach; the whole clinic team, but especially Paul Markert and Gregor Fisseni; Joachim von Wahlert, the Medical Director of the clinic, who did everything in his power to make us feel welcome; and Moniek van Deile from our International Office. Moniek remained calm when it looked like chaos would soon break out, and she brought a professional order to the whole operation. Many thanks as well to all those who gave of their time, energy and knowledge in their presentations. English was the language of the conference, and the non-native speakers rose to the challenge.

If you missed the conference, many of the presentations can be read or downloaded from the ISBP website. ([http://www.bondingpsychotherapy.com/conferences\\_and\\_meetings](http://www.bondingpsychotherapy.com/conferences_and_meetings)). Furthermore, the team at Grönenbach filmed many of the presentations, and a lovely set of 6 DVDs has been edited and can be purchased through the International Office (see separate information below).

### **DVD of the 17<sup>th</sup> International Bonding Psychotherapy Conference in Bad Grönenbach (15-17<sup>th</sup> 2009) includes 6 dvd's:**

1. Welcoming Speeches-Konni Stauss-Jeff Gordon and Godehard Stadtmüller
2. George Ryninck and Astrid Vlamynck
3. Domingos Neto-Acknowledgment of Åsa
4. Michel Oppl-Gregor Fisseni
5. Marilyn Ellis-Skip Ellis
6. Ginny Hurney-Alexander Müller-Closing the Conference



**The costs for 1 box with 6 DVD's is 32€ plus postage.**

You can order the dvd's to the Intern. Office : Moniek Van Deile:

[moniek@bondingpsychotherapy.org](mailto:moniek@bondingpsychotherapy.org)

The German Members can order from their treasurer : Martin Johais:

[johais@t-online.de](mailto:johais@t-online.de)

## A changing of the guard

2009 also brought our organization some significant changes. In both the USA and in Europe, new members have taken over positions of responsibility. This is important, because in the past an inordinate amount of the work to keep the organization moving forward, or even to keep it viable, has been done by a few dedicated individuals. Here again some special thanks are called for: in the USA, Skip and Marilyn Ellis have for years led the ASBP and the ISBP in all major aspects, including having hosted the 2004 International Conference almost single handedly. In Europe, and at the level of the ISBP, Johan Maertens has been instrumental in guiding and coordinating our organization for as long as I can remember (and that is a long, long time). Johan is not only the past President of ESBP and the ISBP; he has also planned the International Conference several times. Johan did the groundwork necessary for the ESBP to qualify as an applicant to the EAP for the status European Wide Organization (see below and the separate information regarding EAP). Both Skip and Johan are still highly engaged with our organization, but have taken on more supportive roles. For a look at who the new Board members in the USA and Europe are, see the separate information regarding the ASBP, ESBP and ISBP Boards below.

### ASBP Board

**President** :Ginny Hurney, [gchurney1@verizon.net](mailto:gchurney1@verizon.net)

**Vice-President** :Glen Keith, [glenkeith123@aol.com](mailto:glenkeith123@aol.com)

**Secretary**: Brenda Scribner, [doctor@goeaston.net](mailto:doctor@goeaston.net)

**Treasurer**: Kaitlin Waldrip), [kwaldrip@goeaston.net](mailto:kwaldrip@goeaston.net)

Christine Alam, [calam@verizon.net](mailto:calam@verizon.net)

Elizabeth Anderson, [ehanderson@verizon.net](mailto:ehanderson@verizon.net)

Natalie Cowley, [natserbu@yahoo.com](mailto:natserbu@yahoo.com)

Michael Hurney, [mlhurney@verizon.net](mailto:mlhurney@verizon.net)

Peter Schroeder, [NIPeter@aol.com](mailto:NIPeter@aol.com)

### ESBP Board

**President**: Jeff Gordon, [jeffgordon@zentrumimkraichgau.de](mailto:jeffgordon@zentrumimkraichgau.de)

**Vice President**: Rob Olij, [robolij@gmail.com](mailto:robolij@gmail.com)

**Secretary**: Domingos Neto, [dnetoster@gmail.com](mailto:dnetoster@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**: Johan Maertens, [johan.maertens@cprt.be](mailto:johan.maertens@cprt.be)

#### Chapters:

**Flemish-Dutch**: Martien Kooyman, [martienkooyman@planet.nl](mailto:martienkooyman@planet.nl)

Johan Maertens, [johan.maertens@cprt.be](mailto:johan.maertens@cprt.be)

**France**: Christine Bagnères, [christinebagneres@club-internet.fr](mailto:christinebagneres@club-internet.fr)

**Germany**: Kornelius Roth, [info@kornelius-roth.de](mailto:info@kornelius-roth.de)

Jeff Gordon, [jeffgordon@zentrumimkraichgau.de](mailto:jeffgordon@zentrumimkraichgau.de)

**Italy:** Carlo Kreiner, [carlokr@tin.it](mailto:carlokr@tin.it)

Sylvio Quirico, [quirico.silvio@tiscali.it](mailto:quirico.silvio@tiscali.it)

**Portugal:** Domingos Neto, [dnetoster@gmail.com](mailto:dnetoster@gmail.com)

**Slovenia:** Bogdan Polajner, [Bogdan.polajner@zbps.si](mailto:Bogdan.polajner@zbps.si)

Sasa Blazevic, [sasa.blazevic@volja.net](mailto:sasa.blazevic@volja.net)

**Sweden:** Inger Johansson, [ingjohan@telia.com](mailto:ingjohan@telia.com)

**Switzerland:** Nimet Salem, [nimetsalem@bluewin.ch](mailto:nimetsalem@bluewin.ch)

Jürg Dennler, [juerg.dennler@swissonline.ch](mailto:juerg.dennler@swissonline.ch)

**International Office:** Moniek Van Deile, [moniek@bondingpsychotherapy.org](mailto:moniek@bondingpsychotherapy.org)

The official constellation of the ISBP Board is 2 members of each chapter.

But in reality, the members of the ASBP and ESBP board attend the ISBP board meetings.

## **ISBP Board**

**President :** Jeff Gordon

**Vice President :** Ginny Hurney

**USA:** Ginny Hurney – Glenn Keith

**Flemish-Dutch Chapter:** Martien Kooyman-Johan Maertens

**France :** Christine Bagnères

**Germany:** Kornelius Roth-Jeff Gordon

**Italy:** Carlo Kreiner-Sylvio Quirico

**Portugal:** Domingos Neto

**Slovenia:** Bogdan Polajner-Sasa Blazevic

**Sweden:** Inger Johansson

**Switzerland:** Nimet Salem – Jürg Dennler

**International Office:** Moniek Van Deile

## **New Teaching Fellows**

The International Society for Bonding Psychotherapy has accepted three members for recognition as Teaching Fellows. The new Teaching Fellows are:

- Lurette Harvey, USA
- Godehard Stadtmüller, Germany
- Michel Oppl, Germany

Society Teaching Fellows are those members with the deepest experience practicing and teaching B.P. They carry a special obligation to see that B.P. thrives, and that the highest standards of practice are given to new therapists doing B.P. They deserve our congratulations and our support. (For more biographical information about the new T.F.s, see the accompanying article, below

**Laurette Harvey:** I am a psychiatric social worker since 1981. Prior to that I was a teacher in our High School system. I have been involved with BP since 1998 co-leading groups and workshops. I am interested in bringing the new theory of BP into the individual, group and workshop formats. The Schema process is very interesting to me and is an exciting new tool for clients. The intersection between this schema process and the body/mind/spirit concepts of various spiritual traditions and meditation is an area that I want to explore. BP seems to me to be a firm foundation into which the new and expanding arenas of human knowledge can fit/integrate and I am excited to play my part in facilitating that expansion/integration.

**Dr. Goderhard Stadtmüller,** specialties in neurology, psychiatry, psychotherapy and psychosomatic medicine: Godehard has been the medical director of the Adula-Klinik for Psychosomatic Medicine since 1996, where Bonding Psychotherapy is offered as a part of the therapeutic process. He is also a supervisor and teacher in the German Professional Association for Depth Psychology. A major professional interest is reaching a deeper understanding of the relationship between psych and soma, body and mind.

**Michel Oppl,** specialties in neurology and psychotherapy, as well as in the treatment of addiction: During my 20 years of leading the psychosomatic clinic of Bad Herrenalb, from where I retired on December 31, 2008, my main points of interest were further development and evaluation of the Bad Herrenalb Model, founded by Walter Lechler. Since 1972 one central element of the humanistic treatment concept of the clinic has been Bonding Psychotherapy. I started training and was a member of the German Society for B.P. in 1993, and I was President of the Society from 1999 to 2005. Different publications on the Bad Herrenalb Model and Bonding Psychotherapy, and have presented at the ISBP Lisbon conference 2003 with the paper: *Reflections on indications and contra-indications of Bonding Psychotherapy*. I am married and have three children and two grandchildren.

## Looking forward

Exciting things are happening in the world of Bonding Psychotherapy. Looking forward, I want to report on three major events:

- The ESBP application for recognition by the European Association of Psychotherapy
- The planned conference in Italy, May 2010
- The planned International Conference in 2011

## ESBP and the EAP

The European Association of Psychology (EAP) is probably the largest umbrella organization in Europe for schools of psychotherapy. To qualify as a “European Wide Organization” (EWO), a modality like Bonding Psychotherapy has to answer a catalogue of 15 questions, with documentation, demonstrating that the modality is in fact a scientifically based psychotherapy. The ESBP formed a committee to do this daunting work (see the separate

information on who the members of this committee are). If all goes by plan, Godehard Stadtmueller and I will be invited to present the ESBP application in person at the EAP General Meeting in Bucharest at the end of June.

In October 2009 there was a written board meeting to vote for a committee with the task of finishing the EAP- EWO application forms for ESBP. The constellation of this committee is:

**Peter Geerlings (The Netherlands)**

**Jeff Gordon (Germany)**

**Martien Kooyman (The Netherlands)**

**Johan Maertens (Belgium)**

**Godehardt Stadtmüller (Germany)**

Today the EAP Headoffice announced that we will most likely be invited to present our application in June. (We will keep you informed.)

## Meeting ESBP in Vittorio Veneto (Italy)

The ESBP meeting this year is from the 28<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. I would like to hold this gathering under our motto for the year: *The Power of Community*. Although this conference is organized by the ESBP, it has become a truly international meeting, with attendees from the USA and Argentina as well as from many European chapters. This is a great opportunity to learn and to enjoy making new friends and renewing bonds with other B.P. colleagues, and I hope to see many of you at this meeting. (See also: ESBP meeting, call for papers).

### ESBP Meeting: Friday 28th- Sunday 30th of May 2010

**Location:** Convento Carmelitani

Via Mazzini 1 or Via Marconi 110

Vittorio Veneto – Italy

**Organization:** Gigetto de Bortoli : [gigetto@ceisbelluno.org](mailto:gigetto@ceisbelluno.org)

**Inscription:** Moniek Van Deile (International Office)

[moniek@bondingpsychotherapy.org](mailto:moniek@bondingpsychotherapy.org)

**Costs:** for the meeting and staying are generally low and there are also cheap flights in Europe nowadays. There are two airports close to Vittorio Veneto: Treviso (25' by car) where Ryanair and Transavia offers low budget flights and the airport of Venice, Marco Polo (35' by car)

When we have more information we will keep you inform.

**Call for papers :** If you are wishing to give a presentation at this Conference, please let us know and send your suggestions before **the 28th of February** to the International Office (Moniek Van Deile)

## International Conference in 2011

Our next International Conference is planned for the 2d to 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 2011. Both Ramon Vaga (Argentina) and Skip and Marilyn Ellis (USA) have generously volunteered to host the conference, and we will be making a final decision in Italy about which venue we will use. Please help us make this decision by emailing your plans: are you planning to come to the International Conference 2011, at least tentatively? If so, would it make a difference if the conference was in Washington, D.C. or in Buenos Aires? And, if so, which venue would you prefer?

### **In conclusion**

So, fellow Bonding Psychotherapists, there are some great opportunities coming up to enjoy and enhance our professional community. I want to encourage every one of you to attend your national chapter's meetings, and if at all possible, come and join us at these European and international conferences. With your support, input and energy we can all experience and enjoy the ***Power of Community*** within our organization.

Jeff Gordon  
ISBP President