

ISST NEWSLETTER

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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 boardmeeting 2023



May, 2023

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SANDPLAY THERAPY

The ISST Newsletter provides information about the ISST organisation 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 16 Member Societies and other Individual Members around the world.

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

www.isst-society.com

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Colophon

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS - Marina Ionescu

Message from the ISST President

Takuji Natori

Message from the President:

Takuji Natori

River Flows On: Toward the Beginning of the Post Covid-19 Pandemic Period

The water incessantly changes as the stream glides calmly on: the spray that hangs over a cataract appears for a moment, only to vanish away.

* (Chomei Kamo, *Hojio-ki*)

This is the first sentence of a Japanese essay in early 13th century "*Hojio-ki*" by Chomei Kamo. The title can be translated as "an account of my hut." The hut was an easily built hut of about 3 meters x 3 meters large. The author had witnessed terrible natural disasters and scenes of misery, such as famine, earthquake, typhoon and epidemic. This experience made him form an attitude of accepting changes as an inevitable fact of life.

This was why he decided to move into the mountain area and to live in a simple hut. Nowadays, his essay is also recognized as a vivid and precise historical record of those disasters. The surface of a river looks almost the same but the water runs continuously, changing the material. Actually, the water one second before is not the same as the water we are looking at now.

We have endured the difficulty of being able to gather, travel and communicate directly face-to-face through the long period since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in Winter, 2019. Going through big waves of

pandemic one after another, we had to update our skills of utilizing internet technology, such as online meeting, webinars, and sharing video of lectures.

Thanks to the development of the vaccine and change in some factors related to the influence of the Covid virus, we are now entering a new situation of resuming direct meetings, international travel, sometimes even free from wearing a facial mask in ordinary situations. Stepping into this new situation, first of all, I would like to reiterate my sincere sympathy to everyone affected.

The 26th ISST Congress in Israel (March 26-30, 2023) was a significant milestone in the history of ISST, coming after the 25th ISST Congress in Berlin in 2019. The Congress was held in-person, and all presentations were offered also for participants of online viewing. I would like to show my deepest gratitude to the Organizing Committee, Michal Troudart-san, Robin Zeiger-san, Michelle Mendelowitz-Yuval-san and Bert Meltzer-san, and all the participants of the Congress.

I would like to emphasize the important effort and contribution made by ISST for preparing the first project of the 26th Congress presented at the Board Meeting in the Berlin Congress in 2019.

During the Congress in Israel, cheerful voices resounded and people smiled and exchanged greetings. It was felt as if the opening of the new period, after pandemic.

As announced in this Newsletter, the Covid-19 exceptions that we allowed for training hours during the pandemic period, will be finished at the end of the July. A transient period will be offered for the ongoing trainees until the end of this year.

Over the pandemic period, we had utilized internet technology as a tool of communication. It would be our next task to consider how to utilize such technologies in our activities of ISSST, consider what we should keep of our traditional way of meeting in-person, and how much direct experience is necessary for the certification process, etc.

In a Board meeting before the Congress in March, 2023, the Board had met online with Dr. Steinebach, an expert in consulting academic societies such as ISSST. At the meeting, it was confirmed again and again that communication is one of the most important activities for our society. Though it is not so simple and easy to keep sufficient and smooth communication in such an international society, we must continue to make an effort for improving it continuously.

We have many new Board Representatives since September 2022, Prof. Tomoko Ajima has replaced Prof. Dr. Yasuhiro Suzuki (JISST, November, 2022), Ms. Maria Elisabetta (Betty) Quaglino has replaced Dr. Milvia Talamini (AISPT, December 2022), Dr. Ae-kyu Park has replaced Prof. Mikyung Jang (KSSST, February 2023). I deeply appreciate the sincere contributions of Yasuhiro-san,

Milvia-san, and Mikyung-san.

After the former Honorary secretary Ms. Maeve Dooley completed her term, Ms. Betty Jackson has taken this role since October 2022. I appreciate Maeve-san's sincere and meaningful contributions.

At the Board Meeting of March 2023 in Israel, Dr. Mariana Taliba Chalfon attended as the substitute for IBTS representative Ms. Lucia Azevedo. At the General Assembly in Israel Congress, two new member societies were approved, SASTS (South African Sandplay Therapy Society) and STANZA (Sandplay Therapy Association of New Zealand and Australia). The new Board Representatives are Mr. Braam Beetge (SASTS) and Ms. Heather Lesley-Swan, respectively.

Writing the first part of this message, a passage of the book "Lectures on Jung's Aion" came to my mind. It is a comment by Marie-Louise von Franz regarding the spiral movement of consciousness or personality in the individuation process.

"The higher plane of consciousness cannot be made obvious by any scientific means. You can only feel it. It is a spiral and not a circle. The movement does not go in circles; it goes forward in spirals. This means that you always return to the same point but on a higher level. For instance, if you meet a person who has individuated, you can say: "Oh, this is still old John Smith" — completely, in the true sense of the word. He has really remained himself. Analysis has not distorted him. He is still the good old John Smith I once knew, but he is on a higher plane. How can you express this fact? You can only say: "I feel it." There is something more mature, more conscious, more calm, and whatever he was is more intensely there and more real." (Hannah and von Franz, 2004, p.164.)

In this example, John Smith looks the same, just like the water of the river, but something has changed and has lifted to higher plane. This can be an image of individuation process of ISST, too, after this difficult period of the pandemic.

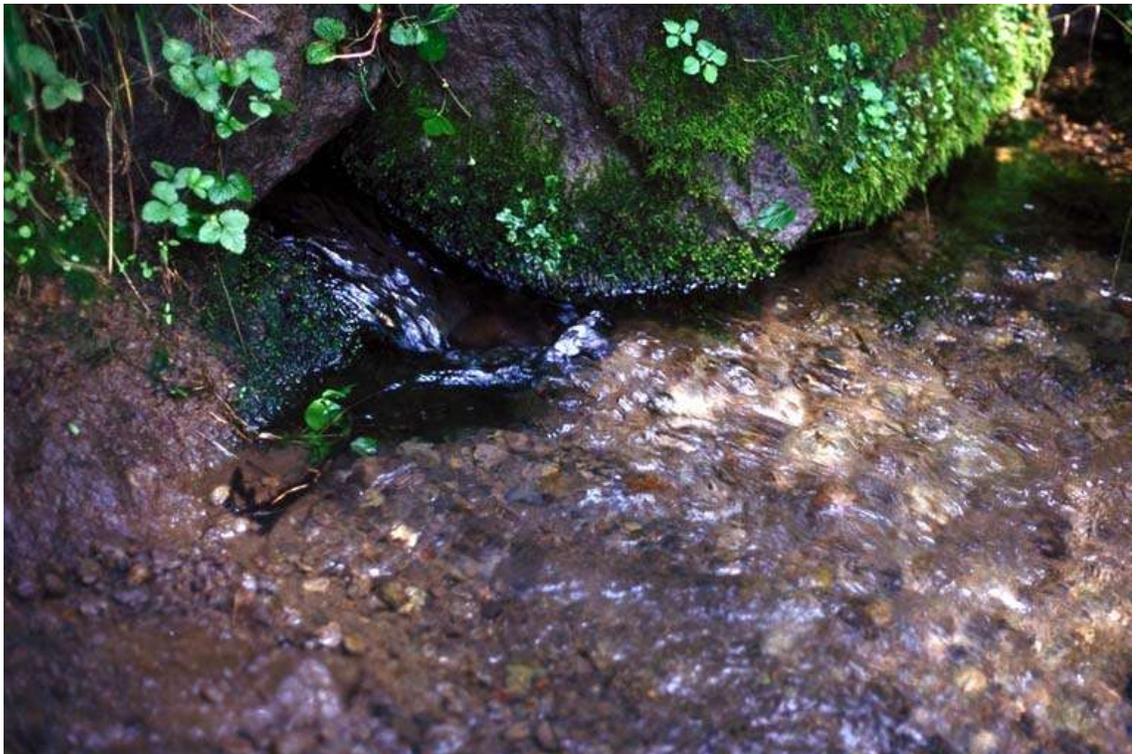
[Note: "-san" is a suffix for showing respect to a person in Japanese. Please allow me to use this expression. Takuji Natori]

*Chomei Kamo, *Hojjo-ki* (a description of my

hut), early 13C. Translation by Dixon, J. M., based on a translation by Soseki Natsume. In.: Transaction of the Asiatic Society of Japan, vol.20 1892-93, pp.193-204. pp205-215.)

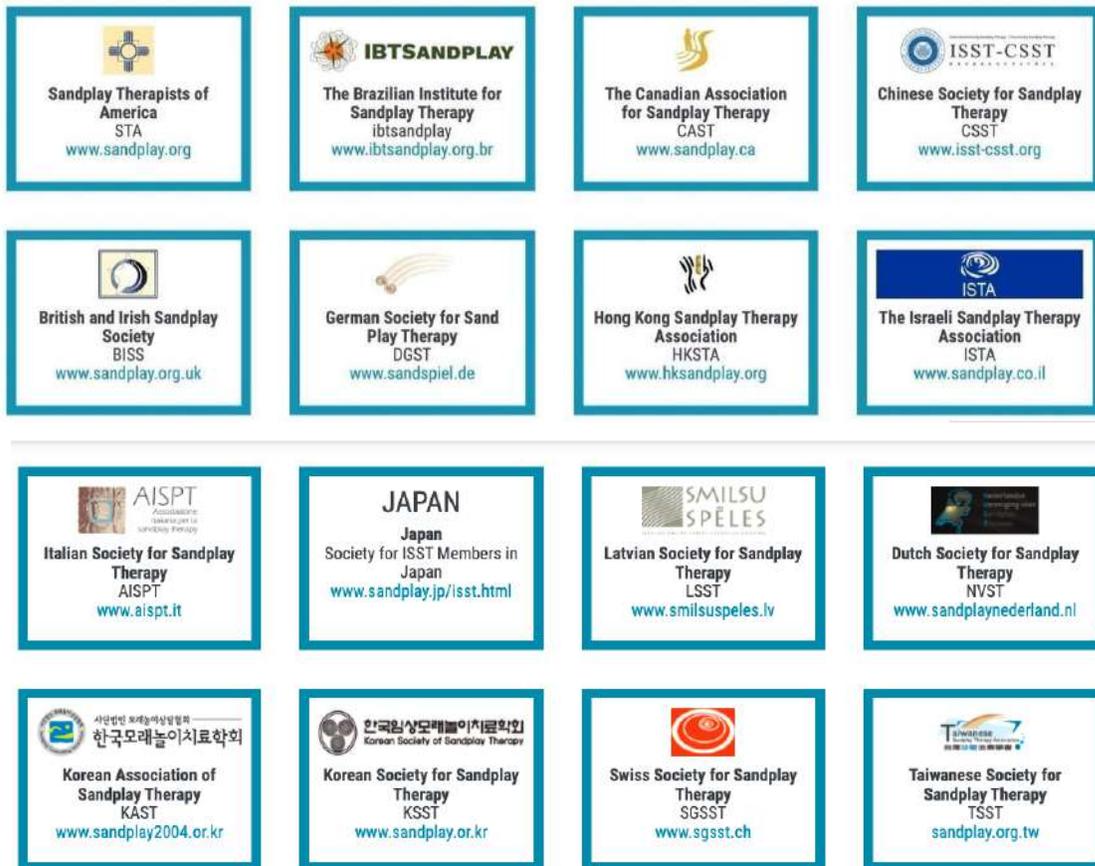
Reference

Hannah, B. and von Franz, M-L. (2004), Lectures on Jung's Aion. Illinois: Chiron Publications.



NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

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



New Society Members: Australia/New Zealand (STANZA) and South Africa (SASTS)

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

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

AISPT Italian Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Vito La Spina

ISST Board Representative: Maria Elisabetta Quaglino

Report by: Maria Elisabetta Quaglino

At the present time, AISPT counts 47 members; 35 of them are ISST Members and 4 are also ISST Teaching Members. Currently, the **Board Members** are:

President	Vito La Spina
Vice-President	Mariella Saletti
Treasurer	Patrizia Vittorioso
Counsellors	Paola Rocco and Anna Sampaolo

2022 has been an intense year for our Association and many of the activities that had started are still in progress thanks to the effort of our Training Committee and our associates.

The two Research Groups “The Use of Stones in Sandplay Therapy” and “The Way the Therapist Observes the Patient’s Sandplay Images” are still meeting and carrying on their research work, while in September 2022 an intensive weekend has been organized in Florence, to start the new working year together, sharing clinical cases and knowledge among AISPT Members and students of the Training Programmes who have completed their training hours.

Many have been the opportunities to improve the diffusion of Sandplay Therapy: Open Days to advertise the AISPT Training Programmes (another cycle of the Specialization Course for psychotherapists has started in January), webinars on Sandplay Therapy held by AISPT Members and

Teaching Members, and above all the online conference “Le mani nella sabbia: quando il corpo entra in terapia” (“Hands in the Sand: when the Body Becomes Part of the Therapy” – 18th and 19th of November 2022), that has involved hundreds of participants and also the precious contributions of ISST President Takuji Natori-san, Lorraine Freedle and Martin Kalf (AISPT still thanks them for their participation) alongside speeches by AISPT Members.



Another very interesting initiative is an ongoing series of both online and in presence conferences entitled “Lo studiolo dell’ Alchimista” (“The Alchemist Study”): each day is focused on a Jungian theme connected to Sandplay, linking up theory and practice, sharing clinical examples and images of sand trays. It is addressed to both students of the training programmes and to whom is already a member of AISPT, becoming also a space to share experiences from different points of view and to enrich the dialogue and in-depth analysis of Jung’s thought and its links with Sandplay Therapy.

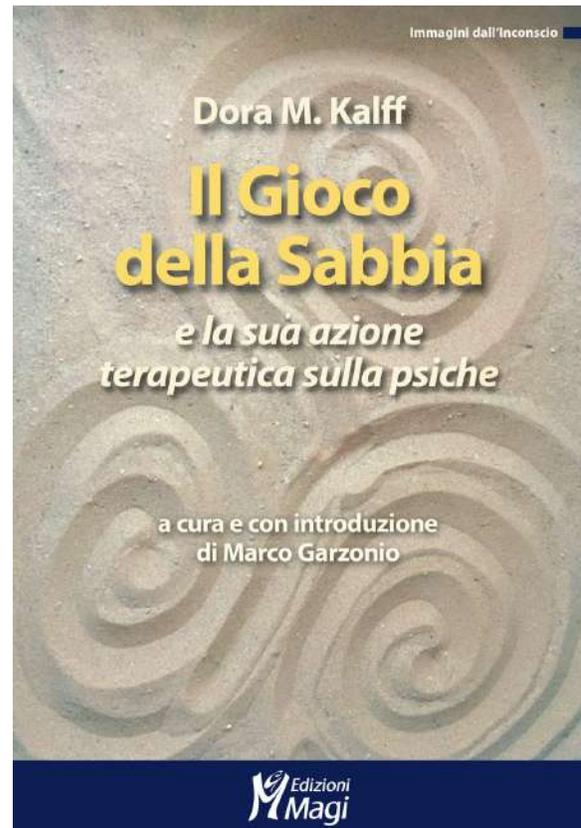
We are also very glad to announce that our online Journal “Orme” (“Footprints”) is finally back with a new Editorial Board and a first new issue is already online (while another one is in progress and will be uploaded on our

site in late Spring); we are looking forward to collaborating also with ISST Members through our section “Voci dal mondo” (“Voices of the World”).

Last but not least, Dora Kalff’s book *Il Gioco della Sabbia e la sua azione terapeutica sulla psiche* (*Sandspiel: Seine therapeutische Wirkung auf die Psyche*) has been republished almost 50 years after its first edition – and after being out of print in Italy for many years – thanks to former AISPT President Marco Garzonio: he has edited this edition writing also an enriching preface, while the afterward is a precious contribution by Martin Kalff.

This occasion allows us to reconnect once again with our roots as both Jungian and Sandplay therapists and reminds us of the power of images and their symbolic value, of the transformation tied to the experience of touching first of all the sand (earth) and then the objects, reconnecting with our inner self and giving us the opportunity to activate that psyche’s healing process that is so fundamental for us and our patients to experience.

Our hope for the current year is to keep on maintaining this kind of commitment and energy after those long and difficult Covid years.



Book of Dora Kalff translated into Italian

BISS British & Irish Society for Sandplay Therapy

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

Board Representative: Natasha Salter-Ling

Reflections from BISS Members on the 26th ISST Congress hosted in Israel by ISTA

Maggie Baron, BISS/ISST TM FCR

As someone who was unable to attend in person, I am deeply grateful to ISTA for arranging a Zoom connection. Of course, this cannot be anything like the convivial meeting of colleagues and attending the extra workshops or morning rituals. However, the warmth and vitality of the congress came through. We were invited to participate in discussions after the presentations if we so wished, which I am sure created further effort for the organisers. So, thank you for this and for taking up the challenge of the congress at short notice when original plans were changed.

On offer there was a rich tapestry of presentations from across the world and East and West were meeting often with reflections on cultural richness, from Hydra heads to the humble wardrobe. For me personally there were three presentations which stirred my humanity, these were Michal Troudart's "When East and West become irrelevant: Neumann's "unitary reality and its Relevance to Sandplay Therapy." Dvora Kutzinski's "Art and Psyche." The human being develops from homo creator to homo faber and then homo sapiens, creativity is an inborn quality of the human psyche and of the world, that has pushed man to consciousness.

Maria Kendler's "The Foundation of Being, Philosophy, Mythology and Sandplay Therapy." The latter ended the conference with a crescendo for me.



BISS members at the Congress

Judy Filmore, BISS Co-chair

When I announced to people that I was going to Israel for an International Sandplay Therapy Congress they were intrigued, wanting to know more. Long explanations followed. I was excited at the prospect of meeting international sandplay therapists and felt the experience and knowledge would both enrich and nurture me.

The Congress venue, perched on the surrounding hills above Jerusalem held a special meaning – to be close to a Holy City which can be a hotbed of division, faith and politics aroused feelings of anticipation, wondering what might happen. And indeed, whilst we were busily engaging in the world of sandplay - history was being made with thousands of people out on the streets protesting. A fast moving and energising backdrop to our deliberations. On our first evening of the Congress, I had no hesitation in joining the delightful snakelike lines of dancers moving to the rousing music around the conference room. This felt like a great start.

I was impressed by the sheer number of seminars, notable was “The Sandplay Therapist as a five headed Hydra” presented by Bert Meltzer – an impossible title to ignore and a sense of relief as it explained why being a sandplay therapist is so demanding of every part of us.

Lynne Lee Ehlers presentation on “The Alchemical Nigredo, Albedo and Rubedo: Stages in the process of Individuation” was fascinating and even on-line, the clarity transfixed me. I re-examined my own sandplay process and recalled a small white female figure which gave insight into thinking about the alchemical stage of albedo. I was impressed by Claire Francica’s honest presentation which was achingly transparent, exploring the impact on her client and herself whilst they traversed the perils of a courageous and exhausting therapeutic journey together.

I will end with the sense of calm as I poured the summation of sand samples into my

sandtray and mixed it carefully and mindfully into my own sand. This completed my exhilarating journey into the sandplay experience in Israel and will stay with me forever.

Natasha Salter-Ling
BISS Co-Chair and ISST Board Rep.

Returning to England after ISST board meetings and the Congress I reflected on the sense of warmth, connection and atmosphere of intense learning. There was a joy to see fully those faces I had previously only come to know online.



BISS member Moira Hood pours sand from Scotland into the group Sandtray

There is nothing quite like the sparkle in someone’s eye, the touch of a warm hug or walking side by side together. Witnessing the many bags of sand from around the world being tipped, poured, scattered and sprinkled into the joint sandtray at our opening of congress, to be mixed together and returned

to sandtray settings around the world was a lovely metaphor for the congress itself and for the varied, rich and enlivening nature of the presentations that we dipped into over those four days. I felt a sense of gratitude to all those who had worked so hard to make this event possible. Particularly Bert Meltzer who spent any spare moments taking groups out to explore Jerusalem, providing us with an insight into the culture and political situation in Israel. Memories are so often the little moments, finding a little Mermaid miniature on a stall after having listened to a

presentation by Wang Ying “The little Mermaid: Enlightenment for Chinese women in the Individuation journey within the Collective Culture”, sharing a pomegranate juice at the market with an ISST colleague, trying Qi Gong in the fresh hillside air before the day began, and most of all those conversations with colleagues from around the world which began quite simply “What drew you to Sandplay”?



Bandplaying with Jorg Rasche



With Bert Meltzer on the last night of the boardmeeting

CAST Canadian Association for Sandplay Therapy

CAST Executive Committee, Administrator: Rachel Harris

ISST Board Representative: Christine Chow

CAST Focus & Initiatives for 2023

Executive Committee

- The role of President has been replaced with the Executive Committee; a more inclusive, transparent and accountable model;

Focus on Governance

- Revising by-laws, updating, creating policies & procedures;

Disability Dialogue

- Opening up dialogue about disabilities as barriers for trainees and clients;

Supporting Students & Members

- Supporting student progress towards next levels, certification and teaching others
- Supporting members as they grow their interest in and practice of sandplay
- Increasing awareness of CAST and sandplay across Canada and strengthening connections around the world.

Looking at Sandplay Therapy through a Neuroscience Lens



Brenda Weinberg, Ed.D. CST-T, ISST has presented an online presentation series exploring five main topics on sandplay, the psyche, and the soma - including the brain and nervous system relationships. These topics guide her presentations through five questions in which her answers address the compatibility of Sandplay Therapy with a model of psychotherapy that incorporates neuroscience.

[Recordings available to non-CAST members upon paid registration.](#)

Remembering Nehama Baum

By **Maria Iosue** CAST-ISST Senior Teaching Member & CAST Executive Committee Member.



At our 28th Annual General Meeting in 2022, we honoured the legacy of the single most influential founder of the Canadian Association for Sandplay Therapy, Dr Nehama Baum, who died in June 2022 after being incapacitated by a stroke she suffered a few years prior.

We acknowledged Nehama's tremendous contribution in having the vision, energy and desire to study Sandplay in New York with Estelle Weinrib; and to become the first Canadian to be ISST Certified in the early 1990's. Nehama brought Sandplay to Canada and played a pivotal role in the creation of this organization as a container and guardian of the therapy we love.

Nehama's personal story motivated her to transform challenges into opportunities,

and played a role on her path to Sandplay Therapy. She moved to Canada from Israel in 1976, when her son Michael (called Muki), who you see in the photo on her right, was then 17 years old. Muki was born deaf and with cerebral palsy. From Nehama's original practice in Social Work, she became a Clinical Psychologist in Toronto in 1984.

Nehama founded the Muki Baum Association in 1979, and was its Executive Director for several decades. The association served children and adults with severe developmental disabilities, as well as emotional and psychiatric disorders. At one time, the number of individuals in the program was nearly 200. The work done in the association's treatment centres was based on Nehama's philosophy that every individual – regardless of ability – is worthy of being recognized as a whole person. She created programs from a *multifocal* treatment approach that integrated movement, social skills, and creative and expressive arts - these included visual arts, drama, music and Sandplay. For several of CAST's Teaching Members (Brenda Weinberg, Sylvia Simonyi-Elmer and myself), our early Sandplay practice occurred at the Muki Baum children's centre under Nehama's supervision. In a reference I found in a Truman State University presentation on multidisciplinary approaches to persons on the autism spectrum, Nehama's *multifocal* treatment was cited, calling her both a "mother and visionary".

As an executive director, Nehama was an astute organizer and networker. She promoted fundraising efforts to enhance

the treatment programs, and her son Muki who was later able to live independently, was one of her most important fundraising ambassadors. For several years, the association put on gala productions, and held several annual art exhibits.

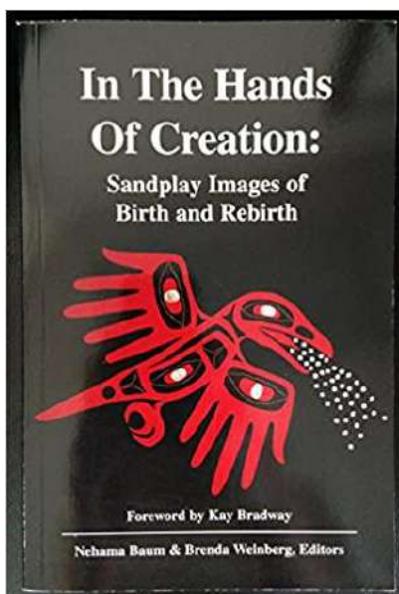
Nehama brought ISST teachers from around the world to Toronto and Vancouver for conferences, workshops, and the 1999 ISST Congress in Vancouver *Hands of Creation**. From among the international ISST community, she engaged the Honourary Directors of CAST, now listed on our website, including Martin Kalff, Estelle Weinrib and Kay Bradway.

Nehama was CAST's first president and our first representative on the ISST Board,

where she later served as ISST Treasurer. She led the vision for our organization and the development of Sandplay in Canada in its early years. And for her dedication and passion, her determination and boldness, we want to honour the legacy she leaves behind.

In her memory, the CAST Board is initiating the Nehama Baum Bursary Fund, to support students who are training with CAST. We look forward to implementing this tribute in the name of a remarkable woman who brought Sandplay to Canada.

Thank you.



* *In the Hands of Creation* edited by N. Baum and B. Weinberg featuring papers from the 1999 Vancouver ISST Congress, is still available from Amazon.

CSST Chinese Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Heyong Shen

ISST Board Representative: Heyong Shen

Report by: Yan Wu, Chenghou Cai

A. Past and Upcoming Conference

The 13th National Conference of Analytical Psychology and Sandplay Therapy with the theme “Active Imagination: Dream, Sandplay Therapy and Expressive Healing” was successfully held last December.



The Snapshot of opening ceremony at the Past Conference

And this year, we are excited to extend our invitation to you that the 14th national conference of Analytical Psychology and Sandplay Therapy, and the 10th International Conference for Analytical Psychology and Chinese Culture will be held in Qingdao, China from December 8th to 10th, 2023.

The conference will explore the theme of "Heartfelt Influence and Transformation, the Wisdom of I Ching and Analytical Psychology." It will be jointly co-organized by the CSST, CSAP (China Society of IAAP) and the China Society for I Ching.

The conference will feature presentations and discussions by renowned Sandplay Therapists,

Jungian analysts, psychoanalysts, and Chinese scholars. In addition to the conference, there will also be a post-conference trip over Shandong province, where participants will have the opportunity to visit significant sites of Chinese tradition.

B. China Society for Sandplay Therapy at the 26th ISST Congress, Israel

In March, led by President Heyong Shen, a delegation of 15 CSST members arrived in the beautiful and sacred city of Jerusalem to meet with our ISST colleagues. During this conference, Yongxia Qian, as a representative of the joint report, shared a wonderful speech titled "The Healing Effect of Archetypal Images in the Pandemic Era," in which they creatively discussed the application of Sandplay in psychological assistance during special periods (once again express our remembrance of our dear colleague, Congxin Shi.). And Lin Ye presented a fascinating speech titled "Sandplay and Asian mirroring of opposed forces: In search of an image of the Tao."

C. Public Lectures

From February 15th to March 15th, CSST&CSAP and Oriental Academy for Analytical Psychology co-host “National Spring Mental Health Month - Series of lectures (now 15) on mental health and Analytical Psychology” along with 15 universities and professional psychological institutions. The aim of this event was to

bring professional knowledge of mental health to more people to let them realize, enrich and develop themselves.

D. Scholarship

The Chinese Journal of Sandplay Therapy was published (2022, 2023), with papers by Eva Pattis Zoja, Lisbet Myers Zacho, Maria Kendler, Heyong Shen, Lan Gao, Chenghou Cai and Fang Yin (CSST/ISST member), etc., who as professors, tutored 31 graduate

students for Ph.D. and Master degrees, focused research on Analytical Psychology and Sandplay Therapy, and with important academic publications (SCI, SSCI papers). CSST candidates Jingyu Liang and Xiaoyan Qian published papers on Culture and Psychology and the Journal of Sandplay Therapy.



The Group Photo at ISST Congress

DGST German Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Ulrich Gwinner

Board Representative: Thomas Mantel

Report written by

Dr.med. Thomas Mantel

Member Society Report 2023 of DGST

As of May 2023, the German Society has 99 members. 32 of them are ISST members and 22 are teaching members and of these 12 are case readers. The board members of DGST are: President: Ulrich Gwinner, Vice Presidents: Dr. Günter Still and Ursula Wachter, Secretary: Andrea Lorenz, Treasurer: Norma Michel, Assessor: Maria Behr.

The German-language conference, „Diversity in Sand“, held in Schloss Fürstenried, between the 21st to 23rd of October, 2022 in Munich, was the greatest highlight of DGST.



The opening lecture of the conference by Dr. Phil. Eva Pattis Zoja, entitled “I would like to slip into the sand myself,” investigated the pre-symbolic experience of adults playing with sand. “I would like to slip into the sand myself”, is the need to feel the sand around you, to be held by it, to be surrounded, as if by a mother. Other case studies illustrated the

process of delay of pre-symbolic experience, of which Dora Kalff said: “They are processes in which the unconscious and hidden wholeness takes the lead.” Ms Pattis Zoja concludes her profound observations: “When a patient goes into the sand, we are always holding the patient’s baby.”



The Saturday began with a lecture by Martin Kalff “Attention regarding body sensations in sandplay therapy.” Martin Kalff has been working with symbolic sandplay for 40 years. Bearing in mind two approaches, mindfulness and sandplay therapy, he asks about the importance of mindfulness in sandplay therapy and looks for opportunities for further development in collaboration with the Italian supervision and research group Zollikon. Sandplay itself promotes the integration of body, emotion, language and rational processes. Martin Kalff said: “The sandplay has given Jungian psychology a body.”

In mindfulness-based sandplay therapy, it is essential to pause again and again, to let the client feel into the body and to give him space to name the sensations.

The lecture was followed by four workshops, which were attended in small groups.

Workshop 1. Ulrich Gwinner's exhibition "Genogram Work in the Sand" dealt with the question of how to do genogram work in the sand in such a way that unconscious contents can be revealed.

Workshop 2. "From Trauma to Resilience" by Dr. Tanja Lenz, used case studies to show how exploratory events can unfold and thus develop resilience. Explorative sandplay offers a chance to gain access to a trauma in which the sandplayer takes his own healing process into his own hands.

Workshop 3. "How does the soul come into the sand – Descartes' case vignette today, the sandbox as a laboratory of the world" by Dr. Jörg Rasche referred to the observations of the philosopher, scientist and mathematician René Descartes from the 17th century, who described nature as an object and had the vision of being able to explain the whole world with a system. Starting from the central sentence "I think therefore I am", Descartes made the "I" the centre of the philosophical question. "

Workshop 4. The afternoon lecture "TRiS - Trauma, Ressourcen im Sandspiel" by Dr. Karl Klaus Madert and Ursula Wachter presented a neurobiological understanding of trauma and the implementation of EMDR in sandplay, which was illustrated with video clips of a therapy process with an adolescent.

Dr. Karl Klaus Wachter began by pointing out that, despite the diagnosis of stress disorder, only a few patients are adequately treated with

trauma therapy.

Workshop 5. Dr. Martin Kalff's "Experiential Supervision" offered a deepening of Martin Kalff's presentation, based on a case from the group, with the help of self-experience of transmission-related body resonance.

Workshop 6. by Mitra Shirazi "The Home and the Foreign", presented sandplay in work with refugees. When people have to leave their familiar homeland, processes of detachment occur that correspond to the developmental phase of adolescence. The meaning of home are sensory experiences stored in the form of inner images in us. Therefore, homeland can never be lost.

Workshop 7. Maria Kendler's "Touching and Moving" dealt with contact with the sand, as the physical basis of the symbolic process. Margarete Lowenfeld was already aware of the sensory dimension at the beginning of sandplay therapy. In recent decades, the understanding of the importance of working with sand has increased through neural research. The workshop showed how the quality of movement in the sand can be observed with case studies.

Workshop 8. In "Sandplay Therapy in Couple Therapy", Beate Kordendiecke-Rasche reported on working with couples in the sand. Couples come into therapy when a crisis hinders or prevents verbal communication. Sandplay therapy makes it possible to communicate with each other non-verbally.

Workshop 9. In his lecture "Buddhism and Sandplay Therapy", Prof. Dr. Alexander von Gontard explained basic Buddhist principles

on the basis of sand images of children and adolescents. The explanations were preceded by reflections on the roots of sandplay therapy, according to which the influence of contemplative tradition had been only very hidden up to now. The Symbolic Sandplay was developed by Dora Kalff from the world technique of Margarete Lowenfeld, the analytical psychology of C. G. Jung, as well as the meditative spiritual tradition of Buddhism. Therefore, sandplay activity is related to the spirit of Zen Buddhism.



A panel discussion at the end of the meeting provided an opportunity for an outlook. The discussion was opened with the question: What makes you think about “Diversity in the Sand”? What could this mean for the future? What of these aspects has inspired? From the participants’ contributions it became clear that the issue of diversity is not only an issue of interest to the German and Swiss Society, but also to the international sandplay movement as a whole. The exchange, openness and tolerance towards diversity in the sand was lived at the conference. The meeting ended with a reference to the next meeting, planned from 27th to 29th of September, 2024 in Beatenburg, Switzerland.

Jörg Rasche, Berlin: Report on the ISST Conference in Jerusalem March 26-30 2023, “When East Meets West”:

The 26th meeting of the ISST, this time in Jerusalem, truly brought a meeting of East and West. The beautiful hotel outside the city centre on a mountain above a Palestinian village organised by the Congress Committee of the Israeli Sandplay Therapists Association, Michal Troudart, Bert Meltzer, Robin Zeiger and Michelle Mendelowitz-Yuval provided the ideal setting for meetings inside and outside. Commemorating and remembering Dora Kalff, Kaspar Kiepenheuer, the connections of sand play with the Eastern cultures of Japan, Tibet and China (among others in a lecture by Betty Jackson) brought new insights into the origins and development of our work, for many. I found the references to Dora Kalff’s collaboration with Daisetz Suzuki, who found the practice of Zen in sandplay, or with Erich Neumann, who had met her at Eranos meetings, particularly interesting.

It is not possible to mention all the contributions within this framework. The numerous lectures and seminars showed a rich spectrum of therapeutic experiences and approaches. The theme of contrasting East and West, but also of opposites in general, ran through many of the presentations. It was particularly impressive, when two speakers complemented each other.

Despite the tensions of the political situation, the congress took place in an extraordinarily friendly atmosphere, with much affection.

This was helped by many small mutual gifts and the collection of small samples of sand from all thirty plus countries that participants had brought with them. Despite the presence of topics such as displacement, the Holocaust, guilt and war, good encounters were possible.

The future of Israel, and with it the future of sandplay therapy there, will depend on whether this state, whether its Jewish and Arab people will manage to develop a common and more peaceful society. The ISST conference was a small sign that this can be possible. A big thank you to the Israeli and Palestinian colleagues!

Ulrich Gwinner tells about the work of the DGST Board:

- Evaluation of the German-speaking Sandspiel-Tagung from 21 to 23. 10. 2022 in Munich
- Together with the colleagues of the SGSST in January, Alexander von Gontard gave the first online lecture together with the Swiss. With over 90 participants, this was very successful. Two lectures per year are planned.

Ulrich's teaching activities:

Personal process, supervision and introductory seminars in sandplay therapy for systemic therapists.

Here are some activities of other German Teaching Members:

Ulrike Hinsch: "Reduced and more qualified work, but with less patients, intensive care and in-company for colleagues. I am happy that I am able to continue with individual processes and supervision in live presence, and mentor the certification of new ISST members, and others who are advancing towards teaching membership."

Günter Still: 2 supervision groups, personal process, Case reader and recently again TAST-Sandspieltage, 2x a year.

Anke Seitz: teaching activities in person and online; personal processes, only in person; national, international and individual supervision; national and international group supervision; national and international Jungian lectures and Sandplay Therapy seminars; Reader and advisor of international final case papers.

Ignez Carvalho-Hartmann: Introductory seminar in sandplay therapy at the Institute for Analytical Children and Adolescents Psychotherapy in Heidelberg. Study Group and Supervision (Online) in Brazil. It is planned to start a sandplay project for a children's home in Florianópolis (Brazil) from November 2023. Some of the miniatures were donated by Mrs. Sigrid Wegmann.

Ursula Wachter: After the disastrous earthquake in Turkey my husband Karl-Klaus Madert MD, Psychosomatic Medicine, Jungian Psychoanalyst, and myself, Ursula Wachter, MA, Jungian Psychoanalyst and ISST Trainer, gave a two day intensive workshop about post-disaster acute interventions with Sandplay therapy in Antalya, March 11th and 12th, 2023.

We presented our method of Sandplay Trauma Therapy (Trauma and Resources in Sandplay TriS). Drs. Pinar organized the workshop with 18 participants: psychiatrist, psychologists, psychotherapists and social workers. In the evaluation round many participants expressed surprise at the

effectiveness of the method and their personal gain. Working with the hands in the sand, self-efficacy and self-healing powers showed up spontaneously and fostered a solution.

Thomas Mantel: Sandplay therapy Seminars at the CG Jung Institute in Stuttgart, supervision, personal process.

Ulrich Gundermann is still working in Chile. In the summer of this year he will return to Germany and overtake the function of representative DGST Thomas Mantel. Ulrich was elected in the General assembly of DGST in October 2022.

Dr Mantel: “This ist my last Report for DGST. I thank the editors of the Newsletter for their great work. Further I want to thank all the Board Representatives of ISST from all the countries of the world. Especially, I thank Natori, Chie and the members of the Core Group for their enormous work. It was a great pleasure for me to meet you and to work with you.”



HKSTA Hong Kong Sandplay Therapy Association

President; Sally Shook Yim Chan

Board Representative: Sally Shook Yim Chan

Report: Sally Shook Yim Chan

Currently HKSTA has four Certified Sandplay Therapy-Teaching Members, three Certified Sandplay Therapist Members, twenty-five Associate Members and fifty-eight Affiliate Members.

Today, after the Pandemic, we in Hong Kong are facing a big challenge. There is now a great wave of migration from Hong Kong to foreign countries. Quite a few of our members have already left and will be leaving. However, a few new members have joined us and participate in HKSTA workshops and seminars. And more people are joining our monthly study groups. Currently, we have ten Committee members: Sally Chan Shook Yim (Chairperson), Chris Cheung Yee Ping (Vice Chairperson), Berenice Lee Earn Ee (Secretary), Teresa Kwok Sau Ling (Treasurer), and Gabie Cheung Pui Sze, Kitty Liu Wong Po Shan, May Liu Yun Fung, Poon Yat Sun, Ruby Mui Kam Seung, and Jennifer Wong Chi Mei.

This was the first year of the Fifth Executive Committee of HKSTA (2023-2026, three years for each term). Nine Executive Members continue to serve as the HKSTA Executive Committee members and one new member has joined. I wholeheartedly thank all the HKSTA Executive Members for their contribution and support. The stability or low turnover rate of the Executive Committee is very important for the future development of HKSTA.

I recall the Book of I -Ching. The 29th Hexagram of the I Ching (see Figure 1) has much to teach me about the difficult time we are facing now. Hexagram 29 is named 坎 (kǎn), "Gorge". Other variations include "the abyss" and "repeated entrapment" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_hexagrams_of_the_I_Ching). Kan (坎) in Chinese is composed of two characters, short of (欠) and the soil (土) thus Kan is an abysmal trap and stands for peril. Things cannot always remain in a state of excess (dà guò, 大過, Hexagram 28). After a great exceeding, darkness follows and Kan is granted. One can reach civilization and one's future will become bright after successfully undergoing and learning from abysmal peril. The next hexagram (Li, 離, Hexagram 30), brightness and civilization, will come (http://www.iching123.com/29_text.htm).

In our sandplay work, we witnessed the inner order gradually growing out of the chaotic outer situation.

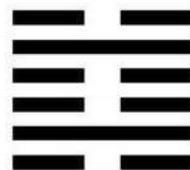


Figure 1: Hexagram 29 - 坎 (kǎn)

In multiple peril we remain sincere, faithful and optimistic, and firmly act to the goals and mission of HKSTA. In order to accommodate the needs of the new members and participants, we are working hard on planning the systematic Sandplay Curriculum for

HKSTA members who can fulfill the requirement of being an ISST Certified Sandplay Therapist. All local and a few foreign ISST Teaching members will be invited to provide training in the coming near future.



HongKong by night (picture source: wikipedia)

IBTS The Brazilian Institute for Sandplay Therapy

President: Lucia Azevedo

Board Representative: Lucia Azevedo

President: Lúcia Azevedo.

Finance: Maria Irene Crespo and Maria Helena Balthazar.

Teaching: Suzana Hirata and Cláudia Spinelli.

Communication: Mariana Chalfon and Alessandra Camargo.

In December 2022, Lorraine Freedle gave an online lecture for members and trainees of The Brazilian Institute of Sandplay Therapy, explaining the criteria that defined sandplay therapy as an evidence-based treatment. The presentation and the discussion were very rich!

Also, we had our 2022 ending celebration, and happily toasted in person!

Thanks to the generosity of the team that leads the Journal of Sandplay Therapy (JST), a publication of Sandplay Therapists of America in our IBTSandplay website we count on a search engine that works as a shortcut to find abstracts published in JST, making the searching easier. We really appreciate the collaboration of Joyce Cunningham and Ritu Tandom.

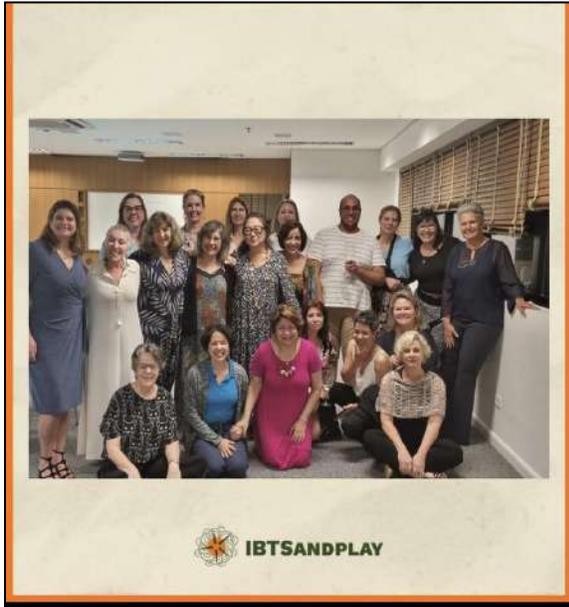
Unfortunately, Brazilian members were not numerous in attending in person the 26th ISST International Congress in Israel. However, we did have online participants and we contributed with a presentation in the

research panel, sharing the results of a study done by Mariana Chalfon and Denise Ramos.

In 2023, the Brazilian Institute of Sandplay Therapy, IBTSandplay, has continued with its recurring activities:

- Themes and Scenes Project: clinical online meetings for members only. Members and trainees gather for a rich theoretical discussion about a symbol, followed by a clinical discussion.
- Classes and supervision for the training program group.
- N'Areia Journal: the online publication of the Brazilian Sandplay Institute.
- Lecture Series, "Ciclo de Palestras". Online lectures open to the general public. In 2023 the main theme of this project is the archetype of the Greek-Roman god Hermes and its symbolic reverberations.

In March, we reflected on this archetype, amplified by astrology, led by Roberto Otsu. In this program, we will include lectures with specialists in Greco-Roman mythology, Yorubá mythology and in the study of alchemy.



Ending celebration 2022



Lecture Series with Roberto Otsu

ISTA The Israeli Sandplay Therapists Association

President: Robin B. Zeiger

ISST Board Representative: Bert Meltzer

26th ISST Congress 2023: Dancing in Temenos

Report: Robin Zeiger, ISTA President

As sandplay therapists, we are often left with “awe for the experiences beyond words.” In deep humility, I will try to summarize five wonderful and magical days with my colleagues (over 200 in person and 100 online). After three difficult years of COVID and world-wide turmoil, it was wonderful to gather in a peaceful forested spot at the Ye’arim Hotel, Ma’ale Hachamisha in Israel, and create together a space of temenos and rebirth.

Somehow, I feel that we continually created many mini-temenoses, circular spaces, like the Great Round, intersecting one another again and again. Likewise, traditional Jewish dance is a circle dance, where we all hold hands and create joy in community. On the first night, at the opening ceremony we were entertained by ‘Gute Gute’, a Klezmer band. Spontaneously the room broke out into circles of joy and connection. This was the blessed beginning.



“Opening dance”

On Tuesday, we were further escorted on the way by Judy D. Zappacosta, emerita member of the Sandplay Therapists of America Board of Trustees and past board member of the International Society for Sandplay Therapy. Via her beautiful presentation and her meaningful and poetic plenary she reminded us of the Mysteries of Passage & Pilgrimage. Perhaps the deep need for human contact, soul to soul, left me with something very special, a “gestalt” that I have never experienced at such a large conference. I heard many voice positive feedback that emphasized the marriage of the heart and the mind, in these many moments of theory, research, clinical cases, and experiential workshops.

It was amazing to hear the opening plenary of Pontifex Oppositorum (Making a Bridge between Opposites) in the Mind - Union of East and West in Sandplay that. Dr. Yamanaka shared with passion and wisdom, about his sandplay work from long ago as if it all happened yesterday.



Dr. Yamanaka (screenshot video)

Betty Jackson entertained and inspired with reflections on our Great Mother of sandplay, Dora Kalff. I only wished I had met her.

If it is possible to have an encore at a professional conference I think Dvora Kuchinski achieved this goal. Scheduled to give a ninety-minute morning plenary on Art and Psyche, the audience insisted she continue to inspire us with her stories and her deep, intuitive wisdom for another half-hour. A senior training Jungian analyst in her late 90's, Dvora survived the Holocaust, and in Israel as a young adult survivor, met and trained with Erich Neumann. She continues to train the next generations of analysts.



Dvora Kuchinski

Rina Porat and Bert Meltzer created a presentation outlining ISTA's 43-year sandplay history and how Israeli sandplay therapists have worked with deep trauma face-to-face.

After years of online communication, I appreciated the experiential exercises and

ritual ceremonies that connected me more deeply with myself and with fellow participants. It was wonderful to share experiences of our countries via symbols, stories, music, dancing, and traditional food (see articles below by Lenore, Michelle, and Elana).

Perhaps I was most moved by my own personal experience of dialogue in diversity. At the STA conference in Redondo Beach this past summer, I was privileged to present a Jewish creation myth of the "Shattered Vessels" that honors destruction and rebirth from holy sparks of godliness. I fulfilled another dream to speak at our Congress on this same topic with two professionals from diverse corners of the world.

Tsuyoshi Inomata, Jungian analyst, author, and Associate Professor at Tezukayama Gakuin University, Japan, talked about destruction and rebirth in Japanese culture and in sandplay scenes. Rokaya Marzouk Abu Rekeyek, initially trained in education, and later in dynamic psychotherapy at Ben Gurion University, studied Dora Kalff's sandplay therapy with Rina Porat and Dr. Bert Meltzer. As an Israeli Arab who married into the Bedouin world, she was the first female Arab school counselor to work in the Bedouin educational framework and bring sandplay to this community. She presented a powerful sandplay case integrating her cultural and religious experiences.

Finally, I offer my gratitude to my colleagues in the Congress committee Bert Meltzer and Michelle Yuval-Mendelowitz, and am especially grateful to the vision and direction of Michal Troudart who worked tirelessly on this project for three years.



Opening Ceremony : Awards of Appreciation were given to Michal Troudart, Bert Meltzer, Rina Porat and Lenore F. Steinhardt.

Report by Michal Troudart, 26th ISST Congress Chair

After having attended seven ISST congresses in different countries, I was very happy to host in my country as well as online so many people from the sandplay community, that is very dear to me. I felt very honored to be chair of the congress organizing committee.



Opening speech Michal Troudart

Israel is a country where many opposites meet. The theme of the conference “When East Meets West” was woven throughout the whole congress in various ways. The merger between East and West began with the opening event where we mixed sands from

all over the world and danced to the sounds of Israeli music with its influences from many cultural traditions.

One of the most meaningful experiences that I had was preparing the morning opening words, together with Mordechai Zeller, a clinical psychologist, sandplay therapist and Orthodox Rabbi from the north of Israel, and Rokaya Marzouk Abu Rekayek, a school counselor and a sandplay therapist who lives and works in a Bedouin settlement in the south of Israel. Every morning before the plenary lecture we shared with our guests a mosaic of amplifications from the Jewish and Muslim traditions, related to the meeting of East and West as well as to sandplay therapy. For me it was a unique opportunity to explore the similarities and the differences between the Jewish scriptures and the Koran.



I want to express again my gratitude to my colleagues in ISTA who made the dream of the congress come true, and to our colleagues from all over the world who contributed so many rich and fascinating presentations.

Experiential Activities at the 26th ISST Congress, ISRAEL

Lenore F Steinhardt

In March 2023, I attended the 26th ISST International Congress, which for the first time took place in my own home country, in the beautiful hills near Jerusalem. I was a participant, but I also felt like a host, greeting sandplay therapists from thirty different countries. To emphasize a spirit of inclusiveness and help everyone feel at home, I proposed three different experiential events: an opening ceremony joining us all through the sands of the world, a closing “ceremonial trading” giveaway, joining us through prepared wrapped gifts without knowing who would receive them, and three early morning outdoor workshops before breakfast. For this conference, I thought that the experiential aspect and spontaneity of sandplay in another form, would connect people to each other, to place, and to the spirit of nature.

My sandplay colleagues, Cindy Raskin and Liela Abramovich joined me in the morning workshops and brought many local natural materials and arranged the grass area of the morning workshops. Michelle Mendelovitz-Yuval set up a wonderful sandplay corner with natural materials, assisted by Debi Jivan, that could be used freely throughout the Congress. Michelle also led our third early-morning group into a local forest to work with on-site materials (see her comments below). Here are the main points of each experiential event:

1. *Pouring the Sands of the World into one sand tray:*

On our first evening of the congress, participants were invited to bring with them a small bag of sand from their sand tray or country, and pour it into an empty sand tray in the front of the main conference hall, filling the tray with the sands, their colors and energies from around the world. This filled sand tray remained in place during the conference. At noon, on the final day of the conference, each participant received a small bag of the mixed sands to take home, and add it and its energies, to their own sand tray at home.



2. *Early morning nature activity:*

Each morning between 7:15 to 8a.m. before breakfast, we invited whoever wished to come, to meet together in a large grassy natural area. We created a central mandala with many natural objects that we brought with us such as sticks, pods, shells, stones and fallen flowers, and also used whatever else could be found on site. Participants could also bring with them natural objects from their own countries. We were surprised and pleased that 20 people came the first morning, 40 the next, and about 25 the last morning.

Each morning began with movement and Qi-gong warmups, standing in a circle on very green grass around a central mandala of natural objects, which was re-constructed each morning. We greeted the rising sun as it broke through the clouds and replenished our group energy. On the first two mornings we expanded our group movement and added to the mandala form with more natural objects. On the third morning after a movement warmup, we created a mandala whose yellow colors reflected the “sun” on the grass, and then bid farewell to this spot that had held us. Michelle led the group to a small forest enclave where people created mandalas with the natural materials there. Then they returned to Michelle’s sandplay corner and we closed our experiential event.



First early morning workshop in nature

3. Ceremonial Trading of Wrapped Objects

All the conference participants brought with them a significant small object from their country, tied a scroll around it and wrote on it its meaning, their name and email. This was wrapped well. These “gifts” were hidden away under a very large central mandala, inspired by Michelle, made of many colorful fabrics from countries around the world, a

world cloth mandala for the final giveaway ceremony. We stood in a circle, walked around the mandala, and stopped wherever it seemed appropriate. Each person could withdraw from under the fabric a small parcel. When everyone had a parcel in hand, we opened them all together. The gift that we receive is often something that we need, but we do not know this until we get it. Many people found the person who had prepared this gift for them and engaged in dialogue.



Ceremonial Trading Mandala with cloths of the world

This was truly a sandplay conference that created a glow of unity, good feeling, relatedness, and appreciation of our common goals. The theoretical presentations, both live and online, from sandplay therapists from so many countries, were excellent, informative and enhanced our understanding of sandplay.

A Sandplay Sanctuary:

Michelle Mendelowitz- Yuval
ISTA secretary

Thinking about hosting an international conference after the uneasy aftermath of the pandemic was challenging for me. While

helping my colleagues to review the fascinating proposals that slowly came in, looking at conference venues and watching as the numbers of participants swelled, I began to think about a refuge, a place to contemplate quietly, connect to the earth. It felt so necessary after the many months of anxiety and shut down. And thus, the idea of a “*sandplay sanctuary*” started to take shape. Debbie Jivan enthusiastically joined me and together we created a corner with *prima materia* from our land that included sand and shells from the seashore, stones from our harsh desert, and pods, seeds and twigs from indigenous plants and gentle wildflowers.



Sandplay Sanctuary Table: making miniatures with natural materials

As the conference progressed, many participants found their way into our sandplay sanctuary, working alone or in pairs, sometimes leaving powerful, beautiful boxes or the footprints of trays that had been dismantled. The sandplay room took on a life of its own as new natural objects magically appeared overnight, sometimes from faraway places. It felt so very vibrant and alive yet also peaceful and contemplative.

The sandplay sanctuary reflected my experience of the wonderful conference that came into being against all odds, a little bubble of hope, connection and wonder within the context of so much conflict, a coming together of different worlds in absolute harmony. I thank all my wonderful colleagues for each bringing their own special gifts to make this memorable event possible.

Brief Report: Elana Cheshin

Talila guided a Qi Gong session each morning. Following "Lila's" guided meditation, eyes closed, mind freely floating, and still in a foggy state, I opened my eyes to discover that an additional participant had mysteriously manifested next to me. I had not heard a sound, nor sensed her presence. It seemed she had been created by me, through my meditative thoughts!



Early Morning Workshop in Nature-Greeting the Rising Sun

A woman wearing traditional Muslim dress was smiling at me. I greeted her "sabah alkhayr", good morning, in Arabic. She responded "sabah al noor". I inquired where she came from, assuming she was from a local village, or East Jerusalem. When she

answered that she is from Gaza my heart swelled with excitement. I had not been aware that a group of psychologists from Gaza had been participating in this conference.

The opportunity to meet, study and exchange ideas with people from 30

countries from around the globe was priceless. Discovering her was the greatest treasure for me. We now greet each other with morning text messages.



Photograph: Liela Abramovich

KAST Korean Association of Sandplay Therapy

President: Sr. Hyerim Kim (Cecilia)

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

Membership

As of May 2023, KAST has 106 ISST members, including 48 ISST Teaching Members. Currently, 15 trainees are preparing to become an ISST member.

ISST 26th Congress 2023 in Israel

Twenty-eight members of KAST attended the ISST congress in Israel. After the pandemic and the long wait to meet people in person, the ISST congress brought people together, creating a feeling of connection and being part of the community. The congress allowed us to share and integrate our meaningful and unique experiences as Sandplay therapists under the theme “When East Meets West”. KAST thanks the congress committee and all board members for all their hard work and the participants who contributed their energy and commitment.

KAST Training Program

Korean Association of Sandplay Therapy has worked hard to facilitate training for candidates and continuing professional education. In the spring semester of 2023, KAST offers various classes, seminars, and supervision, both virtually and in person. This semester, classes, seminars, and supervisions offered are:

- Introduction to Sandplay Therapy
- Basic Concepts of Analytical Psychology
- Sandplay Therapy for children, adolescents, adults, and couples
- Child Development

- Abnormal psychology
- Creation Myth
- Alchemical Transformation Processes and Symbolism in Sandplay Therapy
- Case supervisions
- Individual process
- Dream analysis

The 36th KAST Conference



The Poster for the 36th KAST Conference

The 36th KAST conference will be held virtually on June 11, 2023, and Sr. Boai Kim (Anna) and Toshio Kawai (Former President, IAAP) will present. Sr. Boai Kim will discuss “Maternal Complex and Sandplay Therapy from Jungian

Perspective.” Professor Kawai will discuss “Psychological Features and Therapy of Digestive System Patients using Sandplay and Images.” Hoping the KAST conference will bring members together and share their experiences, as well as create a very nurturing atmosphere for members’ professional journeys.

Healthy Family Community Movement

KAST support the “Healthy Family Community movement”, which works with families and helps improve their unity as a family. Also, it allows family members to achieve their full potential and strengthen

their love and care for one another. This movement has been operated and run by ISST-certified Sandplay Therapists and teaching members, and Sandplay Therapy has been utilized to enhance the effects of the program. Every month, a group of ISST-certified Sandplay Therapists and teaching members who have been operating this program gather to share their experiences and discuss the direction of improving the program. We hope Healthy Family Community Movement supports the healthy development of families and children so that the family can become a safe and protected container.



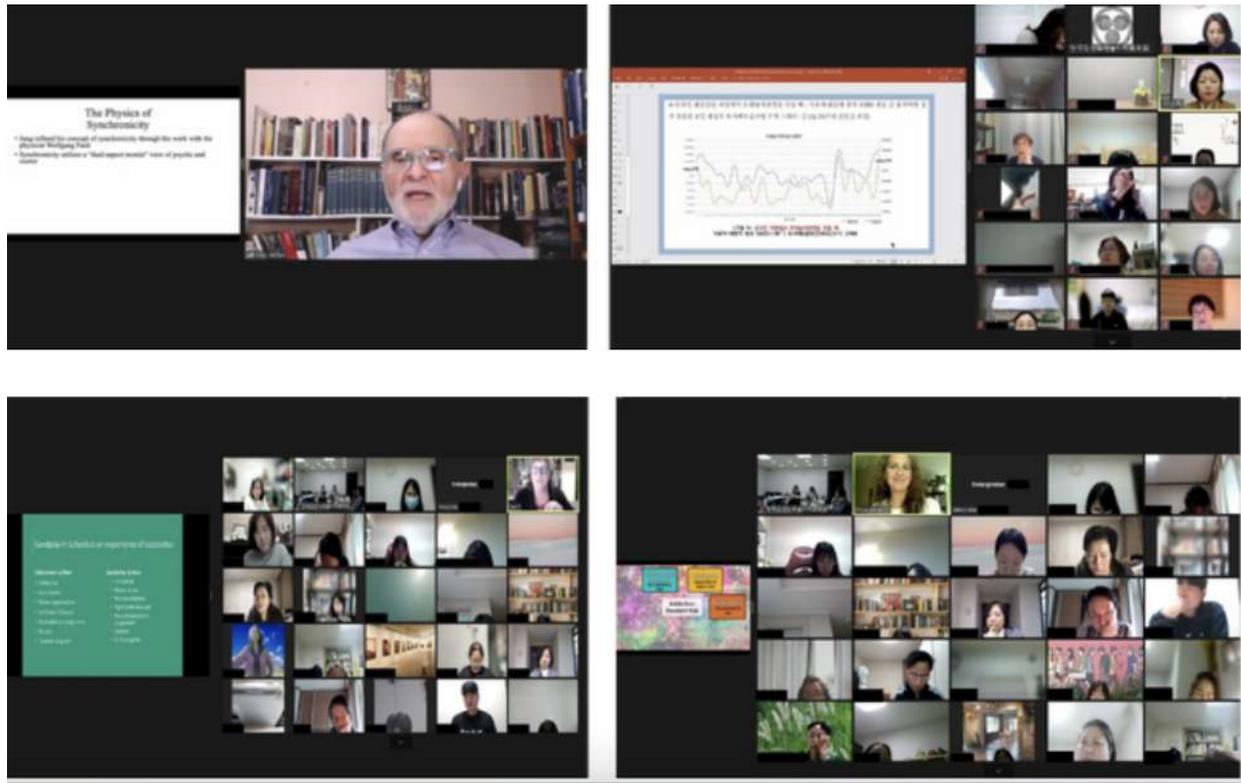
KAST Participants Congress Israel 2023

KSST Korean Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Sanghee Lee

ISST Board Representative: Aekyu Park

Report by: Meera Kowen



KSST online conference

KSST held an online International Conference on “Understanding Transference/Countertransference and Synchronicity in Sandplay Therapy” in December 2022, and a Joint International Conference on “Symbols and School Counseling” in January, 2023.

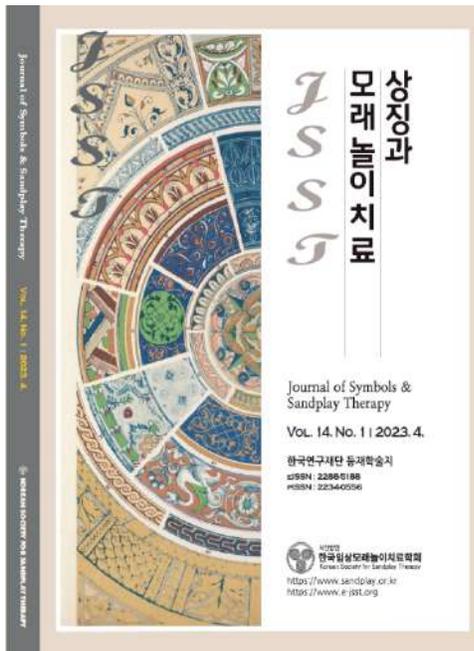
On Saturday, December 3, 2022, the keynote lecturer for "Understanding Somatic Transference/Countertransference and Synchronicity in Sandplay Therapy," was Dr. Kenneth James, a Jungian analyst of the C.G. Jung Institute of Chicago. Dr. James gave a clear, in-depth explanation of synchronicity, a

concept that may be unfamiliar and difficult to grasp. The keynote lecture was followed by another lecture explaining the synchronicity of body and mind in terms of somatic intersubjectivity and somatic empathy, a case presentation on somatic intersubjectivity, and another presentation on an interesting research outcome that explored therapist-client empathy—i.e., the brain synchronization between therapist and client in Sandplay—using functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS). Both pioneering and fascinating, the 2022 conference helped elucidate the concept of synchronicity and

related neurobiological discoveries in modern psychotherapy, including Sandplay therapy.

On January 14, 2023, a joint international conference, "Symbols and School Counseling" was held together with the Korean Professional School Counseling and Education Association. Members from both KSSST and KPSCEA participated, as well as many professional therapists in Korea. It was a great opportunity to learn from international speakers about school counseling practices overseas, and the necessity of symbol-based approaches in school counseling, and to also share academic and clinical experiences of Korean school counselors in the form of case presentations.

Journal of Symbols & Sandplay Therapy



Published Vol. 13 No. 2 & Vol. 14 No. 1

From 2023, Journal of Symbols & Sandplay Therapy (JSST) will be published tri-annually (Apr. 30, Aug. 31, and Dec. 31). Indexed by the Korea Citation Index, JSST is issued into two

languages simultaneously: Korean and English. It is available for free download at:

http://www.e-jsst.org/articles/search_result.php:

The content of these volumes follows:

Vol. 13 No. 2

“Michael Fordham’s Theories of Human Development: An Analytical Psychology Perspective,” by Christine Driver

“Dog: A Companion on the Journey to Independence Beyond Attachment Trauma”, by Misung Yoo

“The Life Experiences of Wives Suffering from Marital Conflicts: A Narrative Inquiry using Sandtray Images,” by Sookyung Kwak Mia Seo

“A Meta-Analysis on the Effectiveness of Sand Play Therapy with Adults,” by Haeju Koh Jineui Ha

Vol. 14 No. 1

“On Observing the Therapeutic Relationship in Sandplay Therapy,” by Murray Stein

“fNIRS Hyperscanning of Right-brain Synchronization between Therapist-client in Sandplay Therapy,” by Mikyung Jang, Allan N. Schore, Sehwa Lee, Yeoreum Lee, So-myung Kim, Meera Kowen

“The Effects of Sandplay Therapy on the Degree of Overdependence, Impulsiveness, and Interpersonal Problems of Smartphone Overdependent College Students,” by Yun Jo, Sungmin Park

“Stone: The Stone Abandoned by the Builder Becomes the Cornerstone; The Self-appearance of the Stone Reborn as a Diamond,” by Sunhee Gug

Sandplay Therapy with Adolescents at Risk

Hwaje Jo, Head of the Anseong Branch, The Youth Guidance Rearing Conference

Delinquent adolescents—e.g., school bullies or offenders—are used to others perceiving them negatively and with hate. Therefore, they reject or attack their counselors, and it takes quite some time before they willingly engage in psychotherapy. While working to explore their frustrated needs and help them find what they truly want, I became interested in their inner arbitrator that always overwhelms them. Then I came across Sandplay therapy, which helped me realize that the adolescents’ delinquent behaviors are manifested by irrepressible inner urges that are alienated from their life, even from themselves, through the identification of their outer personality with their inner personality. And through Sandplay, I witnessed the hand revealing the secrets, which the intelligence had attempted in vain.

Sandpictures of 15-years old delinquent-adolescent:



sandpicture 1



sandpicture 2

Whether they are perpetrators or victims, delinquent adolescents have similar wounds that are very deep. They tend to repress their personality, are dictated by their childish needs both consciously and unconsciously, and display the characteristics of the self-deviant. I knew that working with these adolescents based on their limited verbal expressions would not allow therapists to take into consideration the differentiation of the opposites of their personality, which will only lead to repeated delinquent words and behaviors.

Sandplay therapy allows these adolescents to express their deep inner wounds in a spontaneous and profound manner. When they meet a sensitive therapist who is unafraid to encounter the wounded psyche and is able to provide a positive, archetypal embrace as a safe vessel, they can show their dynamic builder. And I have been privileged to have such experiences. I was able to discover the numinosity of Sandplay therapy by working with adolescents who require care, not for their overt misbehavior but for the unconscious that dictates those behaviors.

LSST Latvian Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Līga Rāviņa

ISST Board Representative: Vera Ščerbakova

Impressions from the 26th ISST Congress

Positive feelings, invaluable knowledge and new ideas, with which Vera Ščerbakova and Lelde Kāpiņa returned from Jerusalem, prompted the organization of a seminar for the members of the Latvian Society for Sandplay Therapy (LSST), which took place in Riga, on May 13. The title of the seminar was “The latest trends in Sandplay therapy in the world context and in the 26th ISST Congress.”



LSST Sandplay Seminar, Riga, May 13, 2023

Vera Ščerbakova (ISST TM, LSST vice-president, LSST representative in ISST board): I have very warm memories of the 26th ISST congress. My heart is full of gratitude to the organizers for the great work that was done so elegantly, that everything seemed to happen “by itself”!

Special thanks for creating a special atmosphere of mutual warmth, mutual respect and interest suited to the needs of each participant, in which it was easier to perceive

and discuss various issues that were discussed in the Congress.

This wonderful atmosphere added to everything a piece of “divine grace,” with which life becomes bearable. The presence of this special energy was felt from the very beginning, from the opening ceremony of the congress. People who during the Covid pandemic longed for live communication, rejoiced at the meeting.

The lively melodies played by the members of the wonderful musicians’ group invited by the organizers touched the hearts of all present and invited them to unite in a cheerful dance. It seemed that everyone “rose a meter above the ground” and did not descend until the end of the Congress. I still feel the presence of this priceless energy.

Lelde Kāpiņa (an LSST member, who is on her way to becoming ISST certified):

What made my participation in the 26th ISST Congress so significant and special was that it was my first experience of a big international Sandplay event. All my expectations and hopes of getting to know the diversity of Sandplay in the context of different cultures were completely fulfilled and even exceeded many times. I still feel moved when I think about the lecturers and participants at the Congress. I feel that all the different life, work, research and cultural experiences, the different languages used in everyday life are united by common basic values and one

common language – the “picture” language of Sandplay.

In less than a week, I greatly enhanced my theoretical knowledge of various approaches to conceptualizing and understanding the healing process of clients’ psyches taking place in the sandplay process, enriched my vision of various symbols used in Sandplay. Through the deep revelations and the description of journeys of the development of the client’s psyche, even the theoretical concepts that I already knew have acquired a new perspective and meaning for me.



Lelde Kapina and Vera Ščerbakova



Latvia beach (Photo: L. Steinhardt, ITW 2016)

NVST Dutch Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Jellemieke Hees-Stauthamer

Board Representative: Theresa Foks-Appelman

Report: Wouter Bleijenberg

This spring, it was 30 years since Joel Ryce Menuhin, ISST Founding Member, came to the Netherlands to give the very first sandplay workshop to 10 psychotherapists.

Soon after, Mary Jane Markell moved to Amsterdam and enabled sandplay trainees to do their personal processes and receive supervision. The NVST was founded 10 years later. Unfortunately, in the past few years, our organization has lost members due to aging and those departed. In December 2022 we had to say goodbye to psychiatrist Richard Hees, NVST Founding Member.

In December 2022, I received my TM certificate with the indispensable encouragement and support of Theresa Foks. Now in 2023, a new training group has been formed after a successful introductory sandplay course given by Theresa Foks and Jellemieke Hees. We have now had several meetings with this enthusiastic group, with symbol presentations and theoretical and case presentations by Theresa Foks, Claire Boer-Stoll and Wouter Bleijenberg. Our General Meeting of Members was held with both older and younger members attending. Odile van Emden, Claire Boers-Stoll and Clara Waardenburg were present.

Fortunately, Theresa Foks still continues her many tasks for the NVST. Jellemieke Hees has taken time out due to the death of her beloved husband, Richard Hees. We hope she will be

able to resume her important role later this year.

A connection is now also being made with an advanced ISST Sandplay therapist from Belgium to strengthen our group and to achieve further cooperation with this group.

The 26th ISST Congress in Israel was attended in person by several NVST members, and others were able to participate online. This was a very successful experience for both groups. I myself followed the entire program online for 4 days.

What an inspiring experience this was, despite missing all the face-to-face meetings. It was very helpful to be able to chat daily with the other Dutch participants and also with some acquaintances from previous conferences. Every day was full with presentations and the video-connection worked very well. Many surprising digital chat contacts.

For example, with Jacquelyn Wiersma, who has Dutch roots, and exchanged many ideas with our Dutch group during the 2007 Cambridge ISST conference, 16 years ago. I was very surprised and glad to hear the important presentation of Jacquelyn with Lorraine Freedle about research and meta-analysis for Sandplay Therapy Treatment. We will discuss this further in the NVST training group.

There were also beautiful presentations by Bert Meltzer. “The 5 headed Hydra” and Lynne Ehlers on “Individuation and

Alchemical Colors”. For me, the deepest impression was the presentation of Dvora Kuchinsky about Creativity/Art and the unitary field and the transcendental function of the psyche. With renewed inspiration we continue with our Dutch Association, NVST.



NVST members at the lunchtable April 2023

Theresa Foks-Appelman

I remember my first ISST conference in 1996(?) when I was still a sandplay trainee, in Mannedorf, at the Hotel Boldern in Switzerland. I have no pictures of it, because at that time taking a picture, developing and printing it was a costly affair. But I remember being immediately inspired by the impression that therapists from all over the world could share experiences with each other about the effectiveness of sandplay. I had a similar experience reading books and articles about sandplay as by meeting internationally experienced therapists.

There must be many members, sandplay therapists and trainees with wonderful memories of the 2001 conference in Switzerland, in Rome 2005 organized by Andreino Navona, the Cambridge conference

in 2007, organized by Maggie Baron, the Kyoto conference, organized by Kazuhiko Higuchi-san in 2009 and the Swiss Congress in 2011 by Ruth Ammann.

Unforgettable conferences in Venice in 2013, organized by Rosa Napoliello and Ottawa in 2015, by Sylvia Simone-Edgar and Hawaii in 2017 by Lorraine Freedle. And finally the 25th Congress in Berlin, organized by Ulrike Hinsch “Dreaming with the Hands” where almost 270 registered colleagues participated. .

One thing is certain: the language of Sandplay is international, which is why global contacts are so instructive and impressive.

What was so self-evident at the ISST conference in Berlin in 2019 was now experienced as precious and special at the 26th ISST conference in Israel: The feeling of unity in the sandplay world.

It was so good to experience, after years of lock-down and long-distance internet contacts, the chance to meet my colleagues again, that felt like a warm bath.

I am so grateful that the positive spirit of the International Society of Sandplay Therapists, as it was founded in 1982 by Dora Kalff, still exists, and especially that we can experience again the mutual recognition that we are united in order to learn from each other at international conventions and conferences.



Congress Memories

CAMBRIDGE 2007

KYOTO 2009

VENICE 2013

OTTAWA 2015

HAWAII 2017

BERLIN 2019

JERUSALEM 2023

SASTS South Africa Sandplay Therapy Society

President: Braam Beetge

ISST Board Representative: Braam Beetge

Report: Retha Roux

Coming Full Circle in the South

Constitution

The SASTS Constitution was finalised in time for the ISST Board meeting in March 2023. During the initial phases of this process, we received sound guidance from Dr Alexander Esterhuyzen and the ISST Developing Group Committee. Maria Kendler, who took over from Carlo Ruffino as the ISST Vice-President for Africa, Europe and the Middle East, played a vital role in supporting us through the finishing touches and in getting the draft document submitted for approval. We are deeply grateful for their time and support.

Election of SASTS Executive

On 28 February 2023, 45 therapists from the Sandplay Therapy development group in South Africa voted online for the first Executive Committee of SASTS. The following office bearers were appointed:

President: Braam Beetge

Vice-President: Retha Roux

Secretary: Sylvia Clutten

Treasurer: Judith Bredekamp

Braam Beetge is well-connected in the international Sandplay Therapy community and has been instrumental in developing Sandplay Therapy in South Africa. The executive committee members all formed part of a founding member group that have

been closely involved in the formalisation of our society over the past few years. They bring a wealth of knowledge and a lively passion for Sandplay Therapy.



SASTS Executive Committee members with Dr Audrey Punnett. From left to right Judith Bredekamp, Braam Beetge, Dr Punnett, Sylvia Clutten, Retha Roux

Gratitude

Any new achievement rests on the foundation laid by those who have gone before. The SASTS Executive Committee wishes to particularly acknowledge the immense contributions by several dedicated teachers that saw our fledgling development group mature into an ISST member society.

Ongoing Engagements

SASTS offers an online webinar programme of bi-monthly lectures by local and international speakers from the Sandplay Therapy and Jungian Analyst communities. The programme is open to all ISST members and students from around the world. SASTS extends a special invitation to

independent members of ISST to consider joining this programme. Details can be found on our website at www.sasts.org.za. The website also informs our community about other developments and training opportunities both here and abroad. We publish an online newsletter twice a year that can be accessed on the website.

Coming Full Circle where East meets West

Three SASTS members - Braam Beetge (Teaching Member), Sylvia Clutten (Sandplay Therapist) and Nikki Themistocleous (Advanced Candidate) - attended the ISST Congress in Israel. Retha Roux (Sandplay Therapist) joined the proceedings online. Sylvia Clutten completed one of the cycles on her personal journey toward accreditation as a Sandplay Therapy Teacher by presenting a paper entitled “An African Blessing Way. Birthing a Symbolic Archetypal Ritual in the Temenos of the Sandtray.”

On March 29th, 2023, the South African Sandplay Therapy Society was officially welcomed as a Member Society at the ISST General Assembly. We are honoured to be part of this network.



Sylvia Clutten, Nikki Themistocleous, and Braam Beetge at the ISST Congress in Israel.



Sylvia Clutten, Braam Beetge and Takuji Natori at the ISST Congress in Israel 2023

SGSST Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy

**President: Maria Kendler, Vice-President: Alexandra Moser Nura
ISST Board Representative: Viola Scheller**

Report by: Maria Kendler

Since many years, SGSST has thought about a project to create a film about Sandplay therapy. Finally, on March 11, 2023, the Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy celebrated the premiere of its new film "Sandplay Therapy" ("Sandspiel-Therapie") at the Piccadilly Cinema in Zurich. The small, familiar cinema, the big screen, the mysterious darkness and the attention of the many spectators gave the film its well-deserved appreciation.



Scene from film with Maria Kendler

Scenes from the film

Fine tones on the piano lead the viewer lightly through the film, from theoretical information to creative hands, forming spontaneous creations in the sand. Once it is the bright face of the little girl, and another time the teenager clapping his hands before touching



the sand, which makes us feel their enthusiasm during their free play in the sand. Then it is the young woman and the young man, both deeply immersed in their work the sand, leaving traces, forming balls and obviously enjoying this physical-sensual material. They take us into their sensations and let us feel how pleasant the cool sand feels on the skin. It is the elderly lady, with the mischievous face, gesticulating beyond the edge of the sandbox, who is engaged in an animated conversation with the therapist. She gives us a glimpse of what it means to be held in an empathic space of the therapeutic relationship.



Scene from film with Martin Kalff

We see black and white photos of Dora Kalff with her clients and even with the Dalai Lama from the early times of sandplay therapy. They take us back historically to the 50's, when Dora Kalff was busy with exploring and teaching the basics of her new method. Many obstacles have been overcome since then. The SGSST and the ISST have made many important developmental steps in order to offer contemporary therapeutic work today in a more visible, stronger and globally

networked way. The worldwide spread of sand play is also illustrated in the film.

We see familiar faces from the Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy: Martin Kalff, Maria Kendler, Ruth Noël-Hermann, Viola Scheller, Ruth Ammann and Alexander von Gontard.



Dr. Alexander von Gontard

As experienced therapists, they guide us through the film in dialogues and tell us about the theoretical roots of sandplay therapy and about C.G.Jung's analytical psychology, which serves as the basis for sandplay therapy. They speak about the importance of a free and protected therapeutic space and especially about the value of the relationship between client and therapist. It is emphasized how the inclusion of the body and sensory perception enable the processes in sandplay to be experienced in a holistic and profound way, leading to a personal source of self-healing forces and resources.

Eva Eichenberger, the experienced filmmaker, is drawn to sandplay through her own experience. She told us at the premiere that she had wanted to make a film about this profound, creative method already 16 years ago. Only now it became possible to realize this joint project. The preparatory work had taken over a year, and on the basis of a precisely coordinated script, the 8-hour

filming took place on a Saturday in March 2022. With music and modern technical means, Erika Eichenberger wove the dialogues of the sandplay therapists into each other, together with the volunteers creating in the sand and the pictures of the emerging creations.

"The film awakens our own needs to pause, to make our own sandplay, in order to look and to feel where our own lives could go on," a person in the audience told me after having seen the film. The young man we saw on the screen who was also present at the premiere reported that his sandplay had resonated for a long time inside him, and that he had repeatedly thought about it.

With cinematic skill, Eva Eichenberger succeeded in showing how sandplay therapy leads into the depths of the human psyche. Personal themes become visible through playful creation in the sand, visible for the person himself and for the therapist. This became tangible and understandable for all 80 spectators in the Piccadilly cinema room. The audience applauded: "I would have liked to watch even longer" or "I am curious about what these persons experienced during their work in the sand" and "I found the atmosphere of the film very enriching", were some feedbacks from the audience.

The 25-minute film about sandplay therapy will be translated into English and French and is accessible to all via the homepage of the Swiss Society for Sandplay Therapy (www.sgsst.ch).

STA Sandplay Therapists of America

President: Antoinette Eimers, Vice-President: David Dermott
ISST Board Representatives: Jill Kaplan and Lorraine Freedle

Report: Lorraine Freedle and Shannon Yockey

26th ISST Congress - Israel

STA extends its sincere gratitude to the ISTA Conference Committee and to ISST for an exceptional Congress in Tel Aviv, and for the years of hard work that made it possible. Whether we attended in-person or online we were held in a very special way. East and West truly came together.

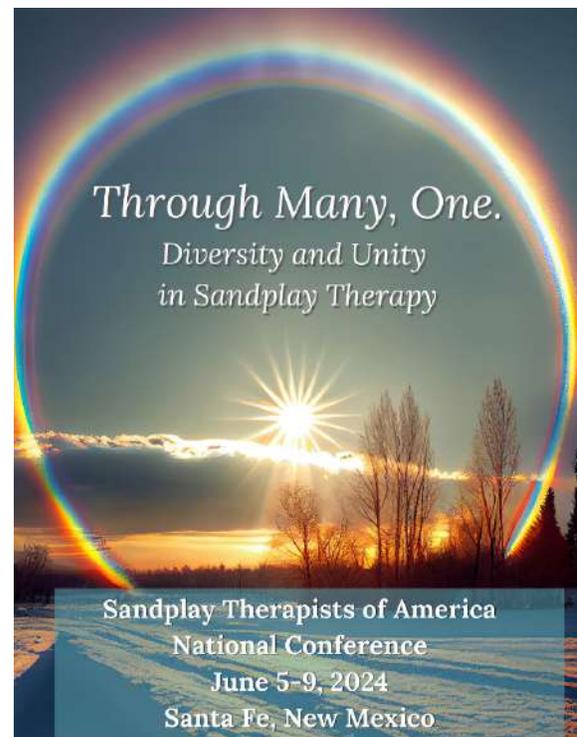
Lasting memories were made through the heartfelt presentations, gatherings, time in nature, music, and... oh the dancing! There were so many people worthy of mention. We would like to take this moment to acknowledge our STA teachers and Associate members who presented – Linda Elaine Bath, Lynne Ehlers, Antoinette Eimers, Lorraine Freedle, Rosalind Heiko, Laura Soble, Janet Tatum, Jacquelyn Wiersma, Shannon Yockey, and especially Judy Zappacosta and Betty Jackson for their deeply moving plenary talks.

Judy spoke about pilgrimage and took us on an embodied journey inward, while Betty told stories of her time with Frau Kalff that helped us to feel a personal connection. STA would also like to congratulate the newest member societies: South Africa and Australia/New Zealand. Welcome to ISST!

'Through Many One'.

2024 STA National Conference

The next STA National Conference will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico June 5-9, 2024. Please "Save the Date" and look for the Call for Papers which will be sent out shortly. Proposals will be due on August 15, 2023. For more information contact sta@sandplay.org.



STA Diversity Pilot Project

STA recently launched an intensive training program to assist therapists of diverse backgrounds to become certified sandplay therapists. The program, offered free of charge to participants, is a collaboration with the New Mexico Sandplay Society (NMSS) and a local counseling agency. There are 24 participants, including people from the Native American, Latinx, African American, and LGBTQIA+ communities.

During the first weekend Laura Fragua-Cota of Jemez Pueblo offered blessings in her native tongue, while Teaching Member Shannon Yockey brought her therapy dog, Cersei, and taught *Foundations of Sandplay Therapy*. “We are so grateful to the participants and to all the volunteers and supporters who made our first gathering more than we could have imagined. The growing sense of community was palpable,” said Lorraine Freedle, Project Chair.



STA Diversity Pilot Project: Santa Fe, New Mexico. March 19, 2023

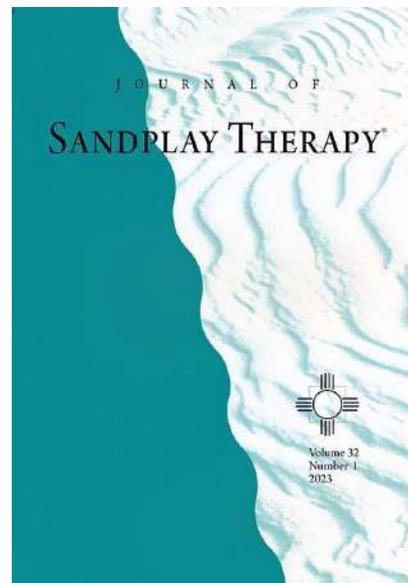
Journal of Sandplay Therapy

The *Journal of Sandplay Therapy*® now 32 years running, is a peer-reviewed journal circulated in 28 countries and published twice yearly in English under the editorship of Joyce Camuyrano Cunningham (joycecunninghamjournalofsandplaytherapy@att.net).

The JST is indexed on *PsycInfo*, a prominent database sponsored by the American Psychological Association. Authors from all countries are welcome to submit articles.

Visit

<https://www.sandplay.org/journal/about-the-journal/> to find many classic and contemporary open access articles, research, reflections, and to search abstracts in multiple languages including English, German, French, Spanish, Hebrew, Portuguese, with keyword searches available in Japanese, Italian, Chinese, Hindi and Romanian.



In Memory of Laurel Howe
A beautiful soul, lost too soon.



Laurel Howe

We are deeply saddened to share the news of Laurel Howe's passing after her courageous battle with cancer which ended on April 2nd, 2023. She was 67 years old and surrounded by her family.

Laurel was a senior Jungian Analyst in private practice in Lakewood, Colorado. She earned her analytic diploma from the Research and Training Centre in Depth Psychology, Zürich, and was a teaching member of ISST. Her interest in the evolution of feminine images in the Holy Land through the transitions to

Judaism and Christianity led to her writings about Mary Magdalene and the death/resurrection archetype.

Laurel published her first book *War of the Ancient Dragon, Transformation of Violence in Sandplay* in 2016, and her upcoming book titled *The Wizard, the Egg and the Fitcher's Bird; Returning Spiritual Life to Nature in the Individuation of Women* will appear in 2023. She also published chapters and articles in many international journals.

Laurel was fiercely committed to the living reality of the psyche and believed in the immense healing potential psyche brought forth through dreams, sandplay and other creative pathways. She believed each sandplay scene created changed the world. She was a superb teacher with a keen ability to bring difficult Jungian concepts alive and meaningful to many students over her 25-year analytic career. Laurel and her husband Matt Christie shared their home and hospitality, with generosity and much laughter.

TSST Taiwanese Society for Sandplay Therapy

President: Min Li Chiou

ISST Board Representative: Pi Ling Chen

Author: Hsiao-Fen Huang

Reflection on Attending the 2023 Congress of the International Society of Sandplay Therapy

‘When East Meets West: Past, Present & Future’.

When the news of the 26th Congress of the International Society of Sandplay Therapy was released, a thought flashed through my mind: I want to go! However, the thought caused uneasiness as it would be the first time I was to attend an international conference, let alone one to be held in an unfamiliar country far away. More and more worrying thoughts, such as my mediocre English, continued to push up my anxiety level. Not sure where it came from, but a sense of foolhardiness came over me, and this adventurous journey thus unfolded.

At the cocktail party at the opening ceremony, a band consisting of young musicians with distinctive Israeli characteristics was invited to perform live at the venue. Prompted by the strong rhythm of the music, attendees danced along, holding hands to form a long chain which weaved through the venue connecting every unfamiliar face. I thought to myself, if this event were held in Taiwan, what could we present in the ceremony to best showcase Taiwanese culture? I thought of the Lion and Dragon Dance, while Pi-ling suggested that the Eight Generals would

be fitting too. At the end of the party, attendees took turns putting a handful of sand they brought with them into a common sandbox. The landscape of the sand changed as more and more sand flowed into the sandbox, which was not dissimilar to the collision and merging of different cultures. We were told that at the end of the Congress every attendee could take a small bag of the “world sand” home and mix it into their own sandbox. I felt and believed that this “world sand,” having gathered all the energy from around the world, would bring transformative power to my cases after I returned home.



For the next four days, I moved between different lectures, case presentations, and experiential workshops. Due to language barriers, I encountered some

difficulty absorbing the content, but I was still able to appreciate the multiplicity of the presentation styles of the therapists, the remarkable transformation in the sandbox of cases presented by the presenters, and how emotions are applied in cases and presentations. I was particularly impressed by the case presentations of Shannon Yockey and Maria Kendler. They appeared gentle and spoke slowly, yet their powerful inner strength was palpable.



Their case sandbox amazed me, and their sincere emotions touched me. In addition, the case report presented by the Chair, Takuji Natori, despite only using minimal language to respond to the case, conveyed a powerful supportive force, like a wise therapist.

When Judy Zappacosta and Betty Jackson, both possessing a distinguished look with their gray hair, recounted their interactions with Dora Kalff and case stories from the past, I shed tears of emotion. Their seemingly effortless yet all-encompassing wisdom is the best interpretation of Lao Tzu's philosophy of the East. Furthermore, the exchange and sharing with the participants was

another valuable gain. For example, during the closing ceremony, Ms. Linda Elaine Bath expressed her regret for the restrictions Taiwan endures from holding a Congress due to political reasons. Her warmth and support made those of us from Taiwan shed tears. This made me realize that we must try to be heard. If I hadn't gone through all the trouble to come to Israel to attend the Congress, my life's horizon would not have been expanded in such a profound manner, these beautiful connections wouldn't have been attained, nor would I know that the world is infinitely vast, waiting for me to explore.



At the closing ceremony, the organizers presented a short video recap of the five-day event, and I was surprised to find myself appearing in the footage. I was touched as I had always felt like I was at the margin at the Congress, but it turned out that I had been noticed all along. The highlight of the closing

ceremony was the gift-exchange session. A mandala made up of many pieces of fabric from many different countries was laid out on the floor. Participants hid the sandplay objects they had brought with them inside the fabric, and another attendee would search for and retrieve one. I received a precious gift and blessing from a fellow attendee, which made me very happy.

When the moment of bidding farewell arrived, I dragged my luggage, which seemed so heavy, and left. The sky was overcast with drizzle, but my heart was full. I knew the next journey was ahead of me. It would not be easy, but I was no longer led by fear.



Closing Ceremony

CONTRIBUTIONS from INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Board Representative Individual Members: Marina Ionescu

Report by: Marina Ionescu, Romania

Marina has been the Individual Member's Representative from 09.07.2021, with participation online for the Regional Meeting in 17.07.2021.

Marianne Molbech, Denmark, is substitute for this role from the same date.

email:: marina.ionescu@madcris.ro

The following chart describes the number of IM's around the world:

Description	No	CST -T	CST
Europe	14	6	8
Asia	15	4	11
South America	1		1
TOTAL	30	10	20

Our most important function is to keep contact between each other. We continue to meet new members in our community using online communication.

Since July 2022 until the present there have been several webinars in which we are in contact with the members of our community on diverse topics such as "Transgenerational aspects in working with children." Because our Individual Members are spread throughout the world, we had to repeat this webinar because of time differences between the location of our members, and because of the need for translation for a specific community (eg. the Russian community).

In Romania, the Sandplay Program continues for the 2nd year, with four different trainers: from the USA, Dr. Rosalind Heiko; from Italy, Elvira Valente and Carlo Ruffino; and from Romania, Marina Ionescu.

The Romanian IST (Institute of Sandplay Therapy of Romania) organizes 10 trainings per year. In Romania, the trainings are held in English and IM's from other countries have been present during this period. All the trainings from Romania are mentioned on our website:

<https://www.sandplay.ro/program-de-formare-2023/>

Also, IST has begun to organize trainings in live presence. Online trainings are only for teachers who live far away from Romania.

Along with the sandplay program the Institute (IST) has organized several special events:

*June 2022: Anke Seitz (Germany): *"Sand is medicine– Paths to resilience in sandplay therapy"*

* October 2022: Anke Seitz (Germany): *"Working with teenagers. The importance of individual resilience in the transformation process"*

* October 2022: Ruth Ammann (Switzerland): *"Sandplay Processes – Series of Pictures - Active Imagination"*

* 10th-11th of June 2023: Dr. Rosalind Heiko: *"Issues "in Child Psychology: Diagnosis and Treatment in Neurodiversity, Depression, Anxiety, OCD and Phobias" (English).*

The Russian community has also organized different events that increase sandplay awareness in their community:

*Webinar with Anke Seitz: *“Counter-transference and transference in Sandplay Therapy”*

*Webinars on trauma: Betty Jackson and Julia Novgorodova.

Other webinars:

*April, 2023: Betty Jackson: *“When Sandplay is Not Enough - Pre-Sandplay Interventions for Attachment Issues”*

*August, 2023: Linda Cunningham: *“The Archetype of Integrity: Law and Ethics in Sandplay”*

In addition, different Sandplay authors have given video presentations of their books: Linda Cunningham, Pratibha Eastwood, Eva Pattis.

In August, the Russian Sandplay community is planning a Sandplay tour to the South of Russia to introduce this deep method to this region through lectures and workshops.

Unfortunately, distance and the time differences make it difficult for the IM's to meet more often. We try to structure our meetings so we can keep in touch. In the future we intend to work harder on this.



*Julia Novgorodova and Marina Ionescu
at the Poster Presentation of the Russian Sandplay Journal*

NEWS - ANNOUNCEMENTS - INFORMATION

ISST WEBINAR JUNE 11, 2022

Report: Theresa Foks-Appelman

ISST First Online Online Webinar “Sandplay Therapy and ISST: Spheres of Containment and Development.”

Speakers:

Andreina Navone

Ruth Ammann

Alexander Esterhuyzen

Takuji Natori

Moderator: Carlo Ruffino

This online seminar was open to all members of the ISST with a focus on the method and development of Sandplay Therapy.

The seminar took place on June 11, 2022. More than 200 participants joined the online seminar, showing great interest for this event. As a first online seminar, it was important to talk about the history and significance of the ISST, especially from the perspective of the three previous Presidents, and the current President of the ISST.

Andreina Navone recalled her collaboration with Dora Kalff in moving and inspiring memories about the initial foundation of the ISST.

Ruth Amman presented her views on the purpose of the ISST's statutes and the status of the member societies. She referred to the democratic working method of the ISST as an umbrella function and coordinator of activities that enable the Member Societies to unite with each other on the basis of equality.

Alexander Esterhuyzen then gave a wonderful presentation using the symbolism of the sandbox and compared it with the function of the ISST.

Takuji Natori, the ISST current President, spoke about the special challenges he has had to face the Pandemic, that meant that keeping in touch with the Board Members and the members of the ISST had to be carried out



Three former ISST Presidents, Andreina Navone, Ruth Ammann, Alexander Esterhuyzen, and the current ISST President, Takuji Natori, were the speakers at this major new ISST event, organized by the Professional Development Working Group.

online. Natori-san emphasized the roots as well as the branches of the tree of ISST, indicating that we, as a Society, need to keep being grounded as well as expanding!

Carlo Ruffino, ISST Vice-President of Europe, moderated this seminar very successfully, holding it within the frame of a Webinar and switching to different languages while asking questions.

This initiative was highly appreciated both technically and substantially in the feedback given by the participants. This first webinar has generated a desire to organize more such webinars in the future, with a focus on theoretical and clinical topics that are of great interest to all members of the ISST. Forthcoming ISST seminars will distinguish themselves from online lectures and webinars

that the Member Societies already have organized for themselves. For example, as an umbrella organization, the ISST seminars can focus on the coordination of international contacts. During such a seminar participants will be able to make contact with each other, and have an opportunity to ask questions about relevant topics covered in the seminar, and answer each other.

ISST is confident that the members of the Professional Developing Working Group (Amy Leung Wai Yin (HKSTA), Denise G. Ramos (IBTS) Heather Lesley-Swan (STANZA) and Michelle Mendelowitz-Yuval (ISTA) will succeed in this.

We thank this group for the work they are doing.

NEWS FROM THE ISST BOARD

1. Research Committee update:

Research Committee member Lorraine Freedle explained that the Board had previously approved budgeting \$4000 per year for Sandplay research projects. The Research Committee has since established criteria for selecting projects and developed an application process. A maximum of 2000 USD per project would be allowed, so that two projects per year could potentially receive this amount of funding. Any funds not used will be carried over to the next year.

Applicants for funding must be ISST Members, but an applicant may recruit non-ISST members to be part of a research team if they possess special talents or skills related to the projects. Research teams including members from multiple ISST societies will be prioritized. Special committees will be appointed to review each application. It is understood that a primary goal of research projects is publication in a Sandplay or related professional Journal.

UPDATE ONLINE TRAINING HOURS

2. ISST Period of Exceptions:

It has been decided by the ISST Board to declare the period of exceptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic as officially ending July 31st, 2023, and to recognize a transition period from August 1st to December 31st, 2023 when the same exceptions will apply until a new policy is proposed and approved. The period of time from August 1st to December 31st, 2023 will thus be a period of transition where the rules for the Covid exceptions will continue to apply to existing training and to supervision groups, pending the approval of new rules.

Additionally, Teaching Member applicants may fulfill the requirements for co-teaching and co-supervision online retroactively for the ISST Period of Exceptions from March 1st, 2020 to July 31st, 2023, as well as during the transition period from August 1st to December 31st, 2023, pending announcement of new requirements.

THE MEANING OF THE ISST LOGO



Report: Theresa Foks-Appelman Website committee

At the Board Meeting in 2019 the members expressed a desire for a new and modern logo of the ISST, especially for the website. The website committee was assigned to this task. At least two designers (Switzerland and the Netherlands) were approached who submitted proposals, after which the website committee awarded the project to Bureau Marielle Van't Zand, because of budget and working plan.

This designer sent a questionnaire to all Board Members in which they could indicate what they thought about the role of the ISST and about sandplay, and what they thought would be important in a new ISST logo. Many responded, and the result was discussed with the designer and the committee.

An example from the questionnaire:

1. If ISST was a person, what character traits would it have?

Answers:

Present, complex, communicative, diverse, creative, protective, playful, supportive, responsible, wise, capable, insightful, serious, analytical, multidimensional, international.

2. If Sandplay therapy were a person, what character traits would they have?

Answers:

Curious, joyful, intelligent, calming, creative, protective, playful, material, self understanding, warm containing, grounded

compassionate, gentle, multifaceted, patient, supportive.

Also asked:

- * that the new logo would be recognizable for all international members as well as for the general public
- * Contain the name of ISST Sandplay
- * Make a reference to the house of Dora Kalff (possible in an abstract way)
- * Include the names of the four founding Member Societies
- * To be used for the website, certificates, Newsletter, online Magazine, flyers etc.

During the process of developing the logo, proposals and thoughts were discussed with the website committee through Zoom meetings and PowerPoints.

The designer was inspired by an article in the Journal Sandplay Therapy about Dora Kalff

Journal of Sandplay Therapy, vol. 1, number 1, Autumn 1991. Harriet S. Friedman, Rie Rogers Mitschell.

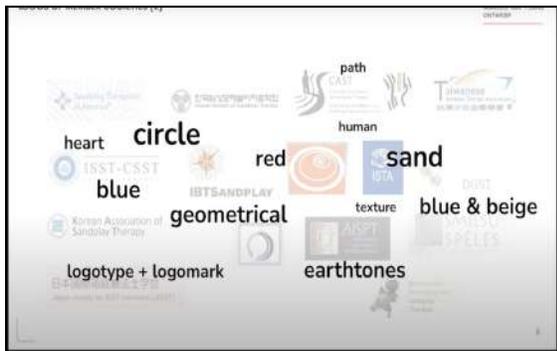
Dora's dream:

"During her time of redirection and change her interest in Asia revived in a dream. According to her son, Martin Kalff (personal communication 1990) her dream was set in Tibet, where she was approached by two monks who gave her a golden rectangular instrument. Implicit in this gift was the understanding that she was to swing the instrument, and as she did, an opening appeared in the ground before her that

went through the entire world. On the other side of the world, in the West, she saw the light of the sun.

Kalff's dream, as later interpreted by Emma Jung, who helped Dora understand that through her knowledge of the Orient, she might also serve the Occident. This dream became realized in Kalff's life through her extensive travels which enabled her to teach sandplay and make personal connections worldwide."

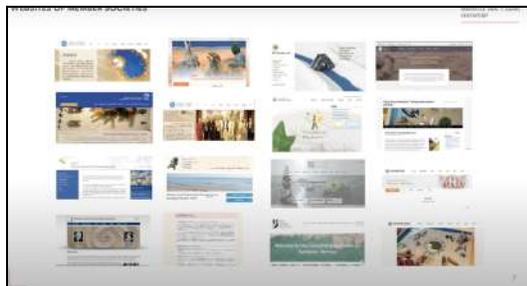
Furthermore the designer investigated the logo's, the colours and the images of the websites of the Member Societies.



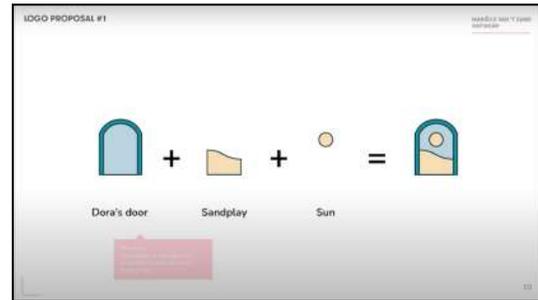
The logo's of the Member Societies



The colours of the Member Societies



The images of the Member Societies



The items of logo #1

The door is not only a symbol of Dora Kalff's; house, but also a symbol of transition to another world. There is the wave of the sand and the sun which rises in the East.

All member Societies received a link to a video in which three different logos were shown and after which they could vote which logo, font and color combination was preferred.

Logo #1, the current new logo, was chosen by a large majority.



Dora Kalff sitting in front of the door of her house

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF JUNGIAN SANDPLAY THERAPY

Dear Readers,

We are very pleased to announce the launch of the *International Journal of Jungian Sandplay Therapy*, the official journal of the International Society for Sandplay Therapy (ISST) and to issue a call for papers for the first issue.

The open access and international peer-reviewed journal *International Journal of Jungian Sandplay Therapy* will be published twice annually.

Its relevant topics are qualitative and quantitative research, research methods, theoretical positions, case materials, symbol papers, and relevant topics as well as review articles and expert opinions from a wide range of developments in Sandplay therapy. Sandplay is the therapeutic modality developed by Dora M. Kalff in Zollikon, Switzerland. It is based on the psychological principles of C.G. Jung.

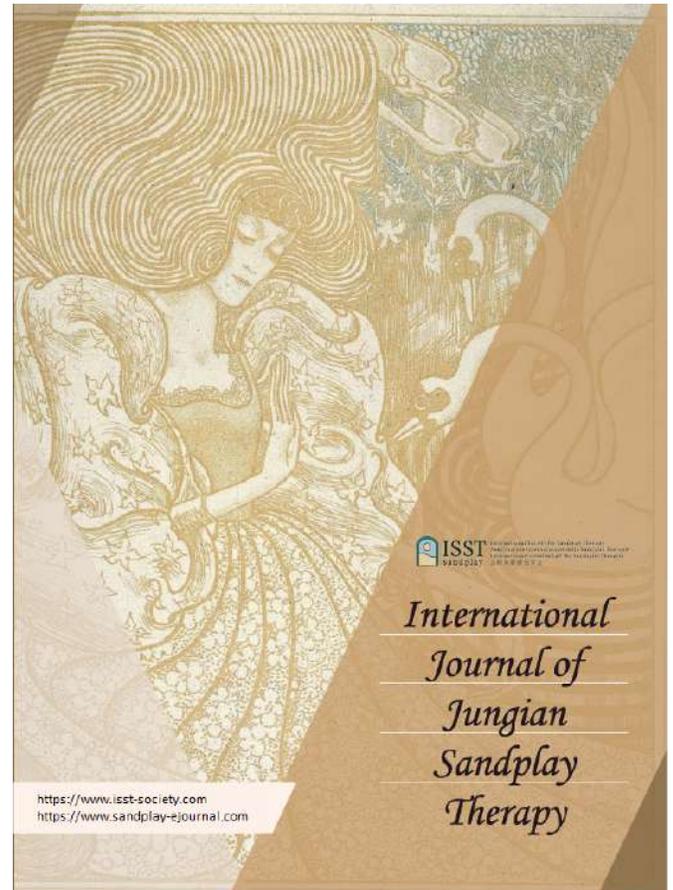
The submission deadline for the First Issue is the **1st of August, 2023** and it will be published online on the 31st of December, 2023.

For more information on our Journal and auto-submission guidelines, please visit the following page:

<https://www.sandplay-ejournal.com>

Also available from

<https://www.isst-society.com>



With best wishes

Mikyung Jang
Julia Novgorodova
Co-Editors-in-Chief
International Journal of Jungian Sandplay
Therapy

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.

Takuji Natori *President*
Theresa Foks-Appelman *Production Editor*
Lenore F. Steinhardt *Consulting Editor*
Alexander Esterhuyzen *Advisor*
Ulrich Gundermann, *future Production Editor*

All previous Newsletter can be downloaded on the ISST website after login for members under All News

CALL-UP

CALL FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING EDITOR FOR ISST NEWSLETTER!

The ISST Newsletter Production Team is looking for a native English-speaking volunteer to fill the position of English Text Editor of the Newsletter. The current editors, Theresa Foks-Appelman and Lenore F Steinhardt are finishing their work on the Newsletter after this issue. They will assist the new editor, DGST Board Member Ulrich Gunderman, with his first Newsletter at the end of the year. We receive contributions from all the ISST Member Societies. It is usually necessary to make small changes in the English grammar, and writing style, and retain the flavor of the original language of each society.

We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in joining us. The position begins with the Winter 2023 issue of the Newsletter.

If you are interested, please write us an email with a copy to ISST President Takuji Natori
tnt@leto.conet.ne.jp

Theresa Foks: theresa.foks@gmail.com

Lenore Steinhardt Lenore.steinhardt@gmail.com

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