

**The New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy**  
**presents**  
**Gestalt Approaches to Group**  
**An International Conference Dedicated to Laura Perls**

December 6-8, 1991, Hotel Roosevelt, New York City

*Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy  
and the 10th Anniversary of the publication of  
Beyond the Hot Seat edited by Bud Feder and Ruth Ronall.*

Open to anyone interested in group process or Gestalt therapy.

**Our Conference is a Bold Experiment...**

**Gestalt therapy is founded in experiment: we try, and in the structure of the attempt we find and make ourselves. And so we have created our conference as an experiment — have built in the potential for building and making, discovering and inventing. We want you to be part of our "bold experiment" and invite you to join with us and create the as yet unknown Gestalt Approaches to Group Conference.**

**Conference Highlights**

**Focus Groups: The Heart of Our Experiment**

Crucial to our conferring are our focus groups — small groups meeting periodically throughout the Conference, "chewing" the experience, integrating individual needs and the Conference offerings. We envision our focus groups as the "self" of the Conference, deconstructing and assimilating, generating feedback and creating our direction and emerging structure.

**A Demonstration and Dialogue Comparing a Systems Approach  
And a Gestalt Approach to Group**

**Yvonne Agazarian**, AGPA Fellow and Internationally-known Group Systems Theorist, author of *The Visible and Invisible Group* and **Richard Kitzler**, New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy Fellow and Trainer, author of "The Gestalt Group".

**A Talk by Laura Perls,**

Co-Founder of Gestalt Therapy and the New York Institute, read by Ruth Ronall

**16 Workshops** — all designed for experiential learning

**Plus**

**A Panel On Training**

With the metropolitan New York Gestalt institutes in a round-table discussion



## 9:00-11:00 Workshops

### Comparing Hot Seat and Interactive Gestalt Group Therapy

This workshop offers an opportunity to experience and compare both the traditional hot seat Gestalt therapy in groups with its emphasis on the individual and the more recent interactive approach with its greater emphasis on relating in the group in the moment.

**Robert "Bob" Harman**, Ph.D., Director, Counseling Center, University of Central Florida; Director, Gestalt Institute of Central Florida. (*Hot seat work*)

**Jay Earley**, Ph.D., Adjunct Faculty, Gestalt Center of Long Island. (*Interactive work*)

**Bud Feder** and **Ruth Ronall**, Co-Editors of "Beyond the Hot Seat". (*Moderators*)

### Darwinian Love

We live in a culture that promotes an emphasis on competitive self-realization, resulting in isolation, hostility and confusions of power and love. This presentation offers a corrective drawn from Gestalt therapy in working with couples and larger groups.

**Michael Vincent Miller**, Ph.D., a founder and co-director of the Boston Gestalt Institute, an editor of *The Gestalt Journal*.

### Systems Working With Systems: A Gestalt Co-therapy Approach to Working with Groups

The presenters will demonstrate a mode of co-therapy practice with a participant "group", will process the experience and discuss the approach with the aid of printed materials.

**J. Tyson Merrill**, Psy.D., Visiting Staff member, group co-leader, The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland and

**Lester P. Wyman**, Ph.D., Co-Chairperson, Post-Graduate Training Program, GIC.

### The Art of Intervention in Gestalt Group Psychotherapy

I will discuss and demonstrate how Gestalt group therapists provide an environment experienced by group members as alternately imposing, competing or confirming. We will focus on the art of intervention: when to intervene, with whom and toward what end.

**Jon E. Frew**, Ph.D., Faculty, Pacific University; author of several articles on groups, most recently in the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*.

### The Group: Figure and Field

We shall look at what is figural for the participants. Then we shall play with the group as the figure in which we are field forces. Last, we shall extend our awareness of the field in which the present group is the figure.

**Gale Houston**, M.A., Consultant to Final Phase Training, Gestalt Centre, London, U.K., author of book on Gestalt groups to be published by John Wiley.

### The Large Group Experience

We will present our work with large groups, our theoretical thoughts about the work, and run an experiential session based on Steve Potter's model called "The Street".

**John Harris** and **Peter Philippson**, Manchester Gestalt Centre, U.K., authors of "Gestalt: Working



## **The Modulation of Power in Intimate Systems: Groups, Couples, Families**

Power issues are an aspect of good contact. In this presentation, the modulation of power will be explored—when and how to turn it up and when and how to turn it down.

**Sonia March Nevis**, Ph.D., Chair, Center for Study of Intimate Systems, Gestalt Institute of Cleveland.

## **Training for Gestalt Group Therapists: A Panel**

Ron DeAngelo, Gestalt Associates for Psychotherapy; Vivien D. Wolks, Ph.D., Gestalt Center for Psychotherapy and Training; Joyce Magid, C.S.W., Gestalt Center of Long Island; Anne Teachworth, Gestalt Institute of New York/New Orleans; Norman Friedman, Ph.D., C.S.W., Gestalt Therapy Center of Queens; Dan Bloom, J.D., C.S.W., New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy in a round-table discussion moderated by David Krause, New York Institute.

## **1:45 - 3:15 Special Event (For Everyone)**

### **A Demonstration and Dialogue Comparing a Systems Approach and a Gestalt Approach to Group**

**Yvonne Agazarian**, AGPA Fellow and Internationally-known Group Systems Theorist, author of *The Visible and Invisible Group*, and **Richard Kitzler**, New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy Fellow and Trainer, author of "The Gestalt Group".

This demonstration by two masters of their respective schools promises to be an exciting experience, highlighting similarities and differences in theory and style.

## **3:45 - 5:45 Workshops**

### **A Gestalt Approach to Group Work with Bereaved Children**

A group treatment approach that allows children to grieve, restoring their ability to be more fully contactful. We will show a videotape of this work and offer an experiential exercise.

**Stephanie Barasch Jester**, M.S. candidate, has focused her training on bereaved children and **Linda F. Little**, Ph.D., Faculty and Director of Clinical Training, Virginia Tech.

### **A Gestalt Group-Oriented Undergraduate Class**

This presentation will demonstrate a group/class in the Humanistic Communication program at Iona College in which Gestalt group process forms the ground.

**Alan Schwartz**, Ph.D., Founder of the Humanistic Communication track at Iona College; Member of The New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy.

### **Adapting Gestalt Therapy Theory for Socially-Activist Groups**

We will explore and experience the theory of social oppression in terms of Gestalt therapy concepts. Our experiential work will allow us to distinguish between helpless rage, blaming anger and productive rage.

**Philip Lichtenberg**, Ph.D., Faculty, Bryn Mawr; author of *Undoing The Clinch*, which is the workshop's ground.



## **Extending the Boundary: Including the Spiritual in Gestalt Groups**

Our experiment will be to form a Gestalt group including the spiritual. We will discuss the theoretical basis for integrating (or excluding) the spiritual and experience a way of doing it.

**Ruth Wolfert**, New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy, Director of Gestalt Groups.

## **Gestalt Groups with Abusive Parents**

We will see how some basic concepts of Gestalt therapy, such as the I-thou relationship, awareness, and the paradoxical theory of change can creatively and effectively impact in the difficult and urgent work of prevention and treatment of child abuse.

**Ruth Lampert**, M.A., MFCC, Director of Family Kaleidoscope, Los Angeles.

## **Group Supervision for Gestalt Therapy**

This workshop will be an experience of group supervision. My preferred method for creating an atmosphere of trust and spontaneity is to begin by offering a problem of my own and allowing others to follow suit.

**Elizabeth E. Mintz**, Ph.D., New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy, AGPA Fellow.

## **The Effect of Sexual Orientation on Gestalt Group Therapy**

This workshop will combine experiential exercises and a presentation of two long-term therapy groups (one heterosexual woman and one lesbian) to help participants experience and understand the complex meaning of sexual orientation within a therapy group.

**Lee Zevy**, C.W.S., New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy; a Founder and Supervisor, Identity House.

## **The Goodbye Process**

A group experience to learn effective methods for dealing with the death and dying, separation and loss of loved ones.

**Anne Teachworth**, Founder & Director, Gestalt Institute of New Orleans / New York, provides training in New York, Haifa and Santa Cruz.

## **Theme-Centered Interaction: An Application of Gestalt Principles to Training, Teaching, Learning and Organizations.**

The use of Gestalt principles in non-therapy settings will be discussed and demonstrated, employing the Theme-Centered Interactional method originally developed by Ruth Cohn.

**Isaac Zieman**, New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy, T.C.I. Trainer, leads groups in NYC, Europe and Israel.



**W**e call on you to become part of our process, to join us in experimenting:

## Conference Offerings

### Friday evening

- 6:30 Registration
- 7:30 Welcome by Elaine Rapp and Introductory Remarks by Bud Feder, and Ruth Ronall, Conference Co-Chairs
- 7:45 A Talk by Laura Perls, Co-Founder of Gestalt Therapy and The New York Institute, read by Ruth Ronall,
- 8:30 Focus groups
- 9:30 Conference-as-a-whole
- 10:00 Reception (Cash Bar)

### Saturday

- 8:30 Late Registration
- 9:00 Workshops
- 11:15 Focus Groups
- 12:15 Lunch break
- 1:45 A DEMONSTRATION AND DIALOGUE COMPARING A SYSTEMS APPROACH AND A GESTALT APPROACH TO GROUP  
Yvonne Agazarian, AGPA Fellow and Group Systems Theorist and Richard Kitzler, New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy Fellow and Trainer.
- 3:15 Break
- 3:45 Workshops
- 6:00 Focus Groups
- 7:00 Informal Gathering (Cash Bar)

### Sunday

- 10:00 Focus groups
- 11:00 An opportunity to create a structure open to the emerging figure of the conference.

## Conference Information: (201) 746-6815

### Registration Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Conference fee \$175 ☐ New York Institute Members & Full-time Students \$150 ☐ Plus \$25 late fee after December 1 ☐.  
Special group rates available. Refunds available until November 15 (minus a \$35 handling charge).

**Make checks payable to : The New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy**

**Mail to:** Gestalt Approaches to Group Conference  
c/o Bud Feder, 51 Upper Montclair Plaza, #21, Montclair, NJ 07043

Special Conference rate at Hotel Roosevelt (45th Street & Madison Avenue), \$98 per room. To reserve, please call the Roosevelt directly at (212) 661-9600



December 6-8, 1991  
Roosevelt Hotel - NYC

A Bold Experiment . . .

An International Conference  
*Dedicated to Laura Pells*

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