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# ISST NEWS

International Society for Sandplay Therapy



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

Jungian Sandplay is a non-verbal therapeutic and creative process in which individuation is expressed symbolically. ISST encourages the highest quality of Sandplay therapy practice available and represents more than 300 certified members around the world, and 13 National Societies.

*Please visit our website for information about education and training in Jungian Sandplay:*  
[www.isst-society.com](http://www.isst-society.com)

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# Message from the ISST President

Alexander Esterhuyzen, Hong Kong, December 2018

## **ISST in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges of increasing Diversity**

It has been many years since the early 1980's when Dora Kalff sent out invitations to eight international Sandplay therapists who were working with her method. She invited them to her home to share their experiences. They also worked on establishing an organisation with the purpose of protecting and promoting the method that had so inspired, informed and deepened their therapeutic work.

The International Society for Sandplay Therapy was established as an international organisation because the founding members saw a need to provide a more formal structure for the study and practice of Sandplay therapy that would protect, develop and spread its use. The international group gathered regularly in Dora Kalff's home in Zollikon, Switzerland, and founded ISST on August 13, 1985 (<https://www.isst-society.com/history>). Significantly, three of the founding members and the first President were from Japan, in recognition of the work of these individuals and their representation of Eastern philosophy, which forms one of the "three pillars" of ISST Sandplay Therapy along with Jungian Analytical Psychology and Margaret Lowenfeld's *World Technique*, that Kalff integrated in her vision. The first constitution contained in the Blue Book was extended, adapted and agreed to in the General Assembly in 2000 when ISST was legally registered as an International Society based in Zurich, Switzerland. This cemented our association with the IAAP, also based in Zurich, and we became an officially affiliated organisational member of the IAAP. Brenda Weinberg from Canada was a key contributor to the enormous work of re-writing the constitution. Ruth Amman likewise made a central contribution to the formal registration of our Society and our affiliation with the IAAP.

Some thirty-three years after the founding of ISST we find ourselves in a growing organisation with twelve ISST societies spread across the globe and at least four more with sufficient numbers to join us. Many, many students throughout the world are actively working towards ISST membership, especially in the East. The world, too, has changed and grown. The use of sandboxes and miniatures has now become so widespread that I have found it necessary to refer to "*ISST Sandplay Therapy*" rather than simply, "Sandplay Therapy." This helps to distinguish our method from the vast variety of techniques using sand and miniatures as a therapeutic modality. This prevalence has also contributed to a notion that the sand and miniatures are themselves sufficient to effect therapeutic change. There is surprisingly little recognition of the importance of the therapist and the necessary knowledge and experience of symbolic language and depth psychology that are an integral part of Sandplay. This is a revelation to many students who have encountered "Sandplay" in other settings. It is one of the things that makes ISST Certification desirable to trainees in spite of the long, difficult training necessary to become certified as a Sandplay Therapist by ISST.

As an institution based in depth psychology, we need to use our experience, skills and knowledge for clinical matters. We must also consider how our organisation has developed and the influence of the changing macrocosm in which we find ourselves. We must strive to be more aware of the danger that our organisation could become a microcosm reflecting the macrocosm. Hopefully, by working together, we can raise our awareness of the importance of our *organisation as a container* for the Sandplay that we love, and to differentiate how that container fulfills its function. This is an important component of our affiliation to ISST.



In the 1990s we began to feel the impact of globalisation on our world and the way we communicate. I spoke then of its dangers and opportunities for Sandplay therapy at our Cambridge Congress. One of the biggest dangers of globalisation is homogenising all things down to a common denominator with a consequent loss of individuality, especially in cultures and therapeutic practise. Now we are in danger of a swing back towards nationalism and rebellion against collective values and community in its broadest sense. We see this especially in nations in the west and have already felt the impact of important members in our own ISST community "going their own way" to form an alternative International Society. I do not think this is an isolated, one-off event. *The problem lies not only with the dis-affected. It also lies with ourselves and how we run our Society.*

Some very interesting reflections on our globalised world and how it is run are beginning to come from unexpected quarters. For example, from General Sir Nick Carter, the UK military Chief of Defence Staff. Following withdrawal of UK forces from Iraq and Afghanistan he realised that the army needed to adapt to a new world of security threats. He quickly found that the professional organisation and its environment were more constraining and restrictive than ever before. Out in the field, soldiers were expected to use initiative, show leadership and imagination, be innovative, and come up with unique solutions spontaneously in order to adapt and survive within their environments. This was in contrast to the straitjacket of formality and protocol back home in their own organisations. He turned the organisation around by clearly differentiating which elements of the paternal organisation were essential and incorporating the flexibility and innovation that was encouraged in the field. This move away from one size fits all to a greater flexibility was also responsible for turning around the fate and fortune of one of the largest and most successful mobile phone companies in Africa, Safaricom. For our organisation to survive beyond the 21st-century we need to carefully differentiate our role as an international umbrella organisation and the rights and privileges of our member ISST Societies. We are proud of our international, cultural diversity. But here again, we need to reflect on how much we are simply a mirror of the macrocosm or whether we do indeed have our own individual awareness and consciousness about how we operate. Professor at

NYU-Stern, Jonathan Haidt, studies morality and emotion and how they vary across cultures. His recent research has focused on the moral foundation of politics and how to transcend "culture wars". He observes that in the West diversity has become entrenched in law. An example I observed in England where I lived for 25 years: in any theatre or film production it is required by law to have a representative of every ethnic minority and to include persons with disability regardless of historical context or subject. This has played a part in changing collective views about disability and ethnicity. Prof Haidt observes, however, that *while diversity is legally enforced in boards and institutions across the country, the diverse and differing norms and viewpoints that might come from these diverse cultures are gagged and silenced by rigid protocols which effectively demand uniform behaviour in all circumstances.* Thus, the innovation and creativity that comes from diversity is effectively muzzled and excluded. This is something that we as members of ISST would do well to reflect on. Which parts of our organisation require us to take a stand in order to maintain the integrity of our method and ensure standards of practice? Which are the parts that stifle the individuality and perspectives that come from a culturally diverse group? Surely our local ISST societies know best how to organize themselves, promote and develop our method of therapy, and maintain the minimum requirements we have agreed on for ISST certification as Sandplay Therapist or Teaching Member.

We need to seriously re-consider the relationship between local Societies and the ISST Board and Organisation as a whole. Our challenge is to benefit from the diversity which is our strength, and our challenge. There was a time during our early, fragile development when it was necessary to limit the number of ISST societies in any one country in order to create cohesion and avoid fragmentation. We are now in a different world where we need to consider whether this rule creates an unhealthy monopoly limiting choice and freedom that may in itself cause fragmentation of our Society. Perhaps, under particular circumstances it is helpful to our international organisation to consider ways in which allowing more than one society in a country may be beneficial to the aims and aspirations of our Organisation and our therapeutic method.

I raise difficult and challenging issues because I am passionate about the importance of our organisation and its growth and survival. Throughout the seven years of my term as President, and indeed throughout my 15 years on this Board, I have done my best to work in the interests of our International Society above all other considerations. I have seen it as my duty and role to keep an overview of the organisation as a whole, while championing our direct members (the ISST societies) and developing ISST societies. I have also sought to support the interests of all ISST teachers, who after all, are the transmitters of knowledge and experience about our method, as well as our ISST members and students working towards certification.

My request to members of ISST is to hold onto the global view; to be aware of the struggle; to be conscious and not simply unconsciously to act out the collective marocosm of which we are a part.

# Message from The ISST Treasurer

Trudy Corry Rankin

I have requested from a few members some questions related to the financial matters of ISST that I could answer for them, knowing that these questions would probably be those of all the membership.

I hope that you find this information informative in understanding this significant piece of Board structure and development. Thank you to those who responded with these important and appropriate questions.

## **What is the policy, procedure and protocol regarding ISST's use of the membership fund to reimburse travel and lodging expenses spent by the Board members and those who represent ISST on official duties?**

The ISST Board meeting lasts three days, with a final fourth day for the Board members to debrief, team-build and enjoy a day together before travelling home. On alternate years when there is no ISST congress, some stay for teaching at an ITW or working at/attending the congress. Therefore, the meal and night before the meeting, the four additional nights of lodging, and per diems for each day's meals are reimbursed to all Board members. Treasurer and President costs for attending ISST congresses are covered, with Board approval, as those involve considerable work with membership issues and the General Assembly. ISST covers half of airfare and all local travel costs for the first representative of each society. The second representative of any society having over 50 in membership, is paid by the representative's society. All reimbursements are first presented to the Board for approval. The President is reimbursed for travel,

room and meals, and registration fees for attending any conference as a representative of ISST in conference leadership activities.

## **How many ISST representatives benefit from the reimbursements?**

There are presently 15 potential representatives. There is a President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Vice Presidents. Some societies choose not to send the second representative, based on costs. The one representative then represents the society with two votes.

## **In what amount?**

The average costs for Board meetings in the 7 years I have been Treasurer are roughly CHF 30,000.

## **Under what circumstances can the policy be changed to suit the change of time?**

Any society representative can add agenda items for discussion at the Board meeting. The Board members represent the interests of their society, not their own interests. These representatives come to the Board meeting with knowledge of the votes of the membership or the Board of their society.

## **In the last fiscal year, besides the reimbursement for the board members, how many projects were supported by ISST?**

ISST provides an advance to the society hosting the ISST Congress. The advance covers the deposits necessary to hold the Congress site and hotel rooms as needed. The ISST budget lists CHF10,000 as an average for this

expense. The ISST underwrites the costs of the Intensive Training Week, until the registration fees are generated to reimburse the ISST account. The ISST covers the travel costs of the teachers for the Intensive Training Week, as most of these teachers have come to the location for a Board meeting. Other than the travel costs of Board Members, the Intensive Training Week is self-supporting. Teachers do not know if they will be reimbursed for their time when they commit to staying for the Intensive Training Week. If funds are available after paying all ITW expenses, teachers may receive a stipend out of the remaining ITW funds.

### **How are these projects decided?**

These projects are determined by the vote of the Board members, representing their societies.

### **In order to consider a future option of hosting the international conference, I am interested in knowing how ISST financially supports the national society that organizes the conference. Can ISST guarantee that the society will not end up in financial deficit?**

The understanding of the ISST Board is that the society is not expected to carry any financial deficit due to loss in Congress funding. This potential loss has to be projected in the yearly approved budgets, knowing that registration at Congresses cannot be predicted. The Society involved in organizing the Congress is given a CHF5000 grant following the Congress to help the society with any effort or project they are involved with, once this grant request is approved by the Board.

### **What are the responsibilities of each Society to its membership regarding financial management? Does each society require an audit?**

Each society is expected to have a Treasurer on their executive committee. This Treasurer is responsible for management of the financial concerns of the society and the collection of the dues. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining financial transparency. This transparency is shown to the membership through an annual audit.

ISST is required by Statute to have an audit. This report is given to the Board members and to the membership. Each society follows their constitution, which could include a yearly audit requirement. This is highly recommended for financial management and accountability.

# News from the National Societies

## Italy (AISPT): The Italian Society For Sandplay Therapy

**President Chiara Ripamonti**

**ISST Board Representative Carlo Ruffino**

AISPT training is presently focused on communicating the different possibilities for training in Kalfian Sandplay in Italy, specifically, at the AISPT Psychotherapy School in Rome and the two-year Masters for Psychotherapists in Rome and Milan. Open Houses have been organized in Rome and other locations where the School and Masters activities and programs are presented. Enough new students are currently enrolled for the School to continue its training and for training to begin in the Masters program in Rome.

Research groups on Sandplay Therapy are active in Italy. The newest group is promoted by three young AISPT members: Irene Bellini, Maria Elisabetta Quaglino and Sara Quaranta. They bring new energy and ideas for the

future development of our Society. The new research group will be focused on the four elements: fire, water, earth, air. This idea was born in Pura during the 16<sup>th</sup> Sandplay Therapy Congress organized by the SGSST and the DGST. It developed in Italy following an exchange of views with colleagues of AISPT. The project plan is to focus on one element for each year. 2019 will be dedicated to fire and how it is connected to the images created in the sand tray by patients. The group aims to analyse the chosen topic and share the results of their research with other Sandplay therapists.



# Britain & Ireland (BISS): The British and Irish Sandplay Society

**Co-Chairs Maggie Baron and Helen Gogarty**

**ISST Board Representative Helen Gogarty**

The British and Irish Sandplay Society has had a busy 2018. Our two main concerns were the 2017/18 training cycle and its conclusion this autumn, and our National Conference in Scotland in June 2018 which had a textile theme *Threads that Weave Through Sandplay Therapy*.

Our Teaching Members have worked to encourage people to complete their outstanding symbol papers and to continue with their supervision, as we are always interested in bringing people towards ISST membership. Some BISS members have held workshops and meetings in different parts of the UK and Ireland in order to contribute to the building of interest in Sandplay. Maeve Dooley, one of our members, has been researching the roots of Sandplay in relation to the work of Margaret Lowenfeld and has made a trip to visit and place flowers on her grave in London on behalf of BISS.

Some work has also been done to update our UK and Irish Sandplay websites and we are pleased to observe that they are frequently visited. These sites enable us to communicate with those interested in finding out more about Jungian/Kalffian Sandplay as well as ongoing training and events.

We are planning to hold some public events in 2019 and will place this information on our website as soon as plans are finalised.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a creative new year.

# Canada (CAST): The Canadian Association for Sandplay Therapy

**President Olga Lipadatova**

**ISST Board Representative Beatrice Donald**

**CAST celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** on November 4 with our first web-conference, *Connecting Through Sandplay Therapy*. Three excellent presentations were made over two and a half hours, followed by our AGM. We had 37 participants.

The Conference began with a presentation from **Margot Lambert** and **Lezli Wrixon**, CAST trainees with a shared training history, who were able to provide continuity in a young client's sandplay process when he moved across provinces.

**Catherine Ellis**, CAST teaching member, Jungian analyst and gardener, presented *The Garden*. Catherine discussed the garden and gardening as symbolic of the Soul and Soul Work. Images of gardens, individuals' sandpictures and dreams accompanied her exploration of the healing potential of the dynamic garden metaphor.

**Christine Bergman**, STA Certified Sandplay Therapist, presented *Sandplay Therapy As Trauma Treatment*. Christine discussed the primary aspects of trauma treatment within the sandplay therapy model as taught by Dora Kalff.

CAST is in the process of exploring standardization of fees charged to trainees.

**Trainings** are ongoing or planned across Canada, in Toronto, Kingston, Calgary and Vancouver.

# Germany (DGST): The German Society for Sandplay Therapy

**President Jörg Rasche**

**ISST Board Representative Thomas Mantel**

As of November 2018 the German Society has 117 members. 35 are ISST members and 23 are teaching members. One is an associate member from Armenia.

Elections of the Board took place in the general assembly on 29 November 2018 in Switzerland during the German language congress of the SGSST. All current members were re-elected, and Günter Still from Tübingen joined the Board. Bettina Lankheit-Feilhuber continues to support the Board managing the administration and organization. Ulrich Gundermann ended his term as Board representative of ISST, since in March 2019 he will move to Chile. He has offered to organize the board member meeting and ITW 2020 in Chile.

## Some Activities of the German Teaching Members

Ulrike Hinsch is teaching in Berlin, Bonn, Magdeburg, Neubrandenburg, Halle, Riga, Moscow and Bucharest. She is also head of the organizing committee for the ISST Congress 2019 in Berlin, together with Jörg Rasche, Norma Michel, Stephan Eiswirth and Thomas Mantel. A report on progress will follow.



Petra Neu (Münich) offers personal process, individual and group supervision, and teaches in various psychoanalytic institutes in Germany and Litauen.

Deborah Bedford Strohm participated in the TAST (Tübinger Arbeitskreis für Sandspieltherapie) seminar on 17 November 2018 with Günter Still discussing the theory of Donald Kalsched. She used two cases to illustrate the theory. Deborah Strohm will teach next year in South Africa.

Ulrich Gwinner offers personal process and supervision in Reutlingen.

Günter Still organizes a seminar of TAST twice a year. He is providing group supervisions, individual supervision and personal process. He also teaches Sandplay therapy and psychodrama at the Moreno institute in Stuttgart.

Ulrich Gwinner offers a two-day seminar twice a year that includes Sandplay therapy applied in systemic family therapy. He also offers personal process and supervision.

Anke Seitz leads a sandplay training group in München together with Deborah Bedford Strohm. She teaches a sandplay seminar in Kemerovo, Siberia in cooperation with IAAP, was a participant in the TAST Seminar in Tübingen in April 2018, in the developing group of ISST in South Africa, at the International Society of Depth Psychology and in the training group in Apfelstetten led by Monika Heinzel-Junger. She also offers personal training, individual and group supervision.

Thomas Mantel taught at the two ITW's in Malta and was a participant in the sandplay day 24 November 2018 in Freiburg with Maria Kendler from Switzerland and Mitra Shirazi from Reutlingen led by Ulrich Gundermann. Ulrich gives a one-day seminar twice a year at C.G. Jung Institute Stuttgart and offers personal process and individual supervision.

# Brazil (IBTSandplay): The Brazilian Institute for Sandplay Therapy

**ISST Board Vice-President Denise Ramos**

**ISST Board Representative Edna Levy**

Our 2017 Training Program class is now finishing its second year.

## Lectures on Complementary Themes

We continue with our Lectures on Complementary Themes given by invited Jungian analysts. These lectures are addressed to the Training Program students and are also open to all Institute members.

### June

Image and Psyche Gustavo Barcellos



*At the June lecture Image and Psyche from left:  
Edna Levy, Gustavo Barcellos and Claudia Mosca.*

### Aug to Nov

Greek Mythology Bernardo Lynch de Gregorio

### August

The Creation Myth

### September

The Matriarchal Phase and the Great Mother

### October

The Patriarchal Phase and the Heroes

### November

Tragedy

## Welcome

IBTSandplay is very proud to announce that from June 20 we welcomed two new Certified Sandplay Therapists: Maria Ines O. Chagas and Tatiana S.C.de Oliveira

# Israel (ISTA): The Israeli Sandplay Therapists Association

Chair Michal Troudart

ISST Board Representative Bert Meltzer

## Training Groups and Activities in Israel

This summer, twelve students finished their third and last year of sandplay training in Nir-Israel facilitated by Rina Porat and Dr. Bert Meltzer. Several of the participants have used their sandplay therapy skills to contribute to a special program of support and enrichment for undocumented immigrant youth from the Sudan and Eritrea who have taken residence in south Tel Aviv.

Sandplay continues to grow in popularity as a treatment for trauma. During the summer there was a great need for it when violence escalated on the Gaza border – with over 400 rockets and missiles shot into Israel in a 24-hour period. This significantly raised the level of tension for children and their parents.



Rina and Bert have recently started a new three-year sandplay training program attended mostly by professionals in the southern part of Israel. They continue a supervision group for graduates of sandplay training, along with a new group for professionals from a community near the Gaza border who want to raise their professional skills in working with trauma and PTSD.

Our volunteer work with children in Sderot continues into its ninth year. Even as we are getting older, we are energized by the exuberance and enthusiasm of the children of Sderot who are happy to be able to express their fears and learn to cope as they build images in the sand.



In the training program in Jerusalem, Michal Troudart teaches together with Rina Porat, Bert Meltzer, Galit Ben-Amitay and Ahuva Yavin-Arnon. In July a group of eight students finished the third and last year, and the end-of-program celebration included a workshop where we joyfully shared ideas and used different materials to create beautiful and useful miniatures for our sandplay collections.

A new group of students began training in November. There is a supervision group for therapists who have graduated from previous training groups.



The training students at the Seminar Hakibutzim Sandplay Program are now in their second year, which includes advanced theory, student symbol paper presentations and three guest lecturers. In 45-minute power point presentations, the students organize their symbol research using the ISST approved format. Our first two presentations were on the Gypsy and the Black Swan. ISST members Cindy Raskin, Mark Bortz and Lilach Galkin will each give two lectures this year. Program director Lenore Steinhardt will give three lectures on Greek mythological figures of Chiron and Asclepius, Hecate, and Odysseus.

### **Sandplay Activities of ISTA Members Abroad**

Lenore Steinhardt was a member of the organizing committee for the ITW Malta in August 2018. The report on the ITW and Israeli student reflections on their experiences is in a separate section of this newsletter.

Michal Troudart continues the supervision program for PACHAP members in Kiev. Michal has also been invited by the *Sandplay Nucleus* in SCPA, the Chilean Society of Analytical Psychology, to give supervision and two lectures on trauma and sandplay.

# Japan (JAST): The Japanese Association for Sandplay Therapy

**President Dr. Masayoshi Hironaka**

**ISST Board Vice President and Chair of JAST Society Yasunobu Okada**

**ISST Board Representative Takuji Natori**

We have 2,064 members in our domestic society. As of 21 November 2018, 2,047 are domestic members and seventeen are international members. We have nine ISST members. Eight are TMs, including Dr. Yasuhiro Yamanaka, founding and honorary member of ISST, and Dr. Yasunobu Okada VP and Chair of the JAST Society for ISST Members.



*Seashore only 5 minutes walk from Niigata Seiryō University, just after the congress.  
(Taken by Takuji Natori 21st October 2018)*

The 32nd national congress of JAST Jin-i to Sizen (Human Activity and Nature) was held October 20-21, 2018 at Niigata Seiryō University in the NEXT21 skyscraper in Niigata city. There were 315 participants. 305 attended eleven workshops. Chair of the organizing committee was Associate Prof. Mariko Ito.

In the symposium at the NEXT21, Shoin Kajii (photographer and Shingon-sect Buddhist priest) presented a series of photographs of landscape and people such as fishermen, a collector of driftwood along the seashore, and the dignified residents of Sado Island. He also showed an art movie of moonlight shifting its shape reflected on the waves of the sea. It was very beautiful and profound. Mitsuyo Toyoda, bird scientist and environmental philosopher, shared her experience with facilitating communication and gathering ideas for reviving a town in Sado confronting a decreasing population. Madoka Kawato, the vice president of JAST and Jungian analyst, commented about the relationship between ego, unconscious, and the Self, associating with the theme Human Activity and Nature.

During the congress, we held the annual meeting of the JAST Society for ISST members. We renewed our statutes according to the common structure recently used among ISST member societies. We are planning to offer a workshop in every annual congress to encourage Japanese sandplay therapists to become members of ISST.

The 33rd congress of JAST will be held at Kyoto International Conference Center and Kyoto University 15-16 November 2019. Chair of the organizing committee is Prof. Tomoko Kuwabara.

General information on JAST is available in our web site:  
<http://www.sandplay.jp/>.

# Latvia (LSST): The Latvian Society for Sandplay Therapy

President and ISST Board Representative Vera Ščerbakova

## LSST celebrates its 10th Anniversary as Latvia celebrates its 100th Anniversary!



*LSST members at the 10th LSST Anniversary Seminar,  
10 November, 2018*

Latvian sandplay therapists and practitioners are united and certified by ISST and the Latvian Society for Sandplay Therapy (LSST).

In November 2018, LSST celebrated the 10th anniversary, a week before the 100th anniversary of the Latvian State. The history of sandplay in Latvia dates back to 2005, when, under the guidance of Linde von Keizerlink and in association with the Latvian Family Psychotherapist Association, we started the first training in sandplay therapy in Latvia. At that time, there were 5 groups of 38 students. These students founded LSST in November 2008.

For ten years, LSST has developed into a stable and growing organization. DGST Teaching Members, who later became ISST Teaching Members, have been teaching groups during all these years. The link with ISST has been strong; many teachers from ISST – Linde von Keyserlingk, Joerg Rasche, Monika Heinzl-Junger, Ulrike Hirsch (all from Germany), Ruth Noell-Hermann (from Switzerland) came to Latvia to run seminars and in February 2019 we are planning a seminar with Ulrich Gundermann (from Germany).

LSST has established Ethics and Certification Committees. To become a certified (full) member of the Society, sandplay specialists need to attend seminars and supervisions organized by LSST.

The Society now has 136 members: 56 full LSST members including six ISST members, five of whom are ISST Teaching Members and 50 are certified sandplay practitioners. 80 support members including 61 sandplay practitioners and 19 members are currently studying sandplay. Our ISST Teaching Members are active in Latvia educating new specialists and sharing their experience in conferences and seminars. LSST President Vera Ščerbakova has also started a training course in Moscow and is planning a course in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The summer of 2017 was special for LSST. The 24th ISST Congress in Hawaii accepted LSST as a member, and since then we have a common history. We are happy to be in the big ISST family and ready to grow and develop in cooperation with other ISST members.



*The six ISST members (from left to right: Līga Rāviņa, Vera Ščerbakova, Maija Biseniece, Iveta Pļaviņa, Guna Berga and Vita Kārklīņa) at the 10th LSST Anniversary Seminar, 10 November, 2018*

# Netherlands (NVST): The Dutch Society for Sandplay Therapy, Nederlandse Vereniging voor Sandplay Therapy

## ISST Board Vice-President and Representative Jellemieke Hees-Stauthamer

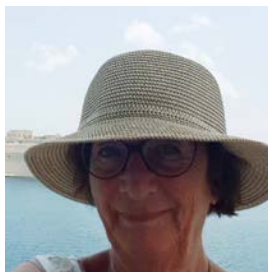
Our contribution is a brief reflection on how the members of our executive committee came to Sandplay.



In 1976, Anna Schwerdtfeger, our vice chair, was in a bookshop looking for books on art therapy when she found Dora Kalff's book *Sandplay*. In 2005 she went to an estate in France where an art therapy curriculum for cancer patients was offered. Going through the building she entered a room completely empty except for a sandtray and miniatures. The lightfall through the curtain, the gentle breeze and the utter serenity of the room exuded wholeness. She experienced a sense of *déjà vu*, immediate recognition. On her return to the Netherlands she contacted Odile van Embden and started her personal process. Now she is an ISST teaching member.



Clara Waardenburg, our treasurer, attended a lecture about Sandplay and thought, "what a wonderful way for a child without much verbal ability to express him or herself!" She felt warm enthusiasm in her body, like falling in love and felt she had found a great treasure.



Theresa Foks, our secretary, first saw Sandplay in a psychiatrist's office where she worked. When she did her training as an art therapist and gave a final presentation on sand and water nobody understood it and she was failed. She did another project to get her degree but wanted to know more. She met Eva Sigg in Köln who told her about Mary Jane in Amsterdam. When she did her personal process with Mary Jane she felt the power of Sandplay. She is a founding member of the NVST and an ISST teaching member.

Claire Boers-Stoll, committee member, heard a presentation in the early nineties about Sandplay with sexually abused men, then a paper about the *swan* as symbol. She found this so interesting she thought, *I must do this*, and started collecting miniatures. When she came to the Netherlands she met Mary Jane and started training with her in 1993. It was like "worlds and layers of meaning opening up". She is a founding member of the NVST.



Jellemieke Hees-Stauthamer, chair of the NVST, first saw Lowenfeld Sandplay in California in the late seventies. It felt like reclaiming a lost language. Later, in the Netherlands, at the start of her practice she was gifted Joel Menuhin's book on Sandplay. Jellemieke is a founding member of the NVST and an ISST teaching member.



Our separate journeys have come together in our executive committee. The wholeness, the treasure, the power, the meaning and the reclaimed language that Sandplay brought us enriched our lives and is something we want to share with others.

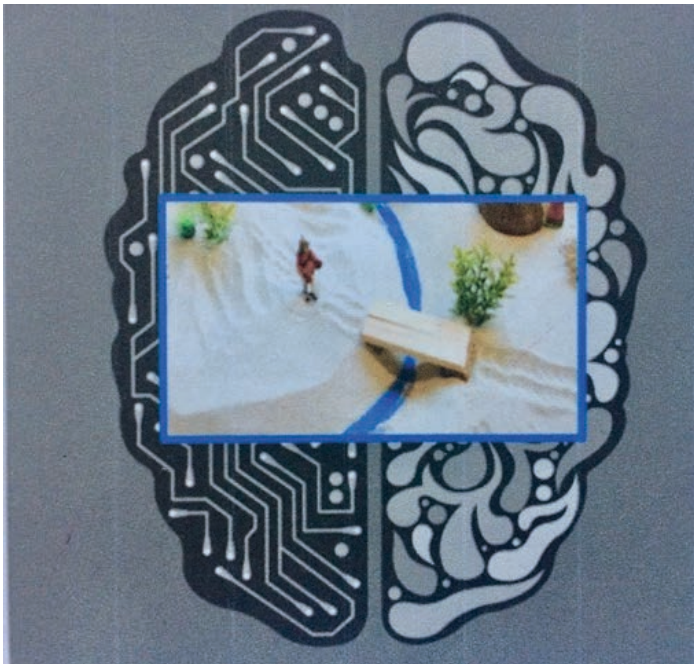
Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all!  
Jellemieke



# Switzerland (SGSST): Swiss Society For Sandplay Therapy

**President Maria Kendler**

**ISST Board Representative Rut Boss-Baumann**



A very special event for SGSST was the Congress for Sandplay therapy in Pura, in the Italian part of Switzerland. It was the 16th joint Swiss (SGSST) and German

(DGST) Congress and took place from 28th-30th September 2018. They were three wonderful and very inspiring Sandplay days.

The congress theme was *Traces of Memory in the Sand: Remembering – Shaping – Influencing the Future*

The 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 was an unusually warm late summer Friday afternoon. 110 Sandplay therapists and other professionals from seven European countries met at the Hotel Paladina in Ticino, Switzerland to discuss how therapeutic Sandplay enables the transformation of traumatically experienced memories and how these changes leave traces in the sand.

A group of 45 participants started the meeting earlier and visited the Museum of Hermann Hesse in the village of Montagnola nearby. In addition to the guided tour of where Hesse lived during the last decades of his life, Maria

Kendler gave a literary introduction to the meeting, reading passages of Hesse's work that related to the theme of the Congress.

After the welcome reception and dinner with all participants, who came from Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Latvia and Turkey, the Congress began with Stefano Carta from Rome. His presentation in Italian was translated into German by Ruth Ammann. In his lecture, *Between Perception and Imagination: The Spiral Development of Memory*, he emphasized the transforming power of therapeutic work with memory, which can transform difficult experiences by assigning a new meaning in the present to earlier perceptions. This replaces their original traumatic meaning, and healing can happen.





The keynote lectures on Saturday and Sunday morning were given by Rut Boss-Baumann, Ruth Noël, Ursula Kübler and Ruth Ammann. From different perspectives, the theme of transformation of memory was presented and illustrated with sandpictures, art, scientific research on neuropsychology, and the paintings of patients. Ruth Ammann spoke about a theme that is rarely discussed: the importance of the review of a Sandplay process.

Workshops and supervision groups on Saturday afternoon in German, Italian, and French allowed the participants to share and deepen their experiences with Sandplay in different fields of therapy.

The character of the original German-language only Congress has undergone a change due to the lively international participation. The main lectures in German were simultaneously translated into Italian, French and Latvian. This common effort to create bridges through translation allowed for a very fruitful meeting and exchange among Sandplay therapists from different European countries.

A concert with original music from Ticino opened the traditional dinner on Saturday, which took place in a very pleasant atmosphere of collegial and personal exchange. A very special highlight was the idea of the Congress organizers to offer a "sand break" between the lectures and working groups. All participants were invited to create a sand picture in the 3 cubic metres of sand supplied in a circle under a huge tent, as well as with the figures and design material provided.



Gathering around the common creation and the joint viewing of the sand picture at the end of the symposium was very touching. The symposium ended with a big thank you to Maria Kendler, Viola Scheller and Annabelle Aebersold.

# United States (STA): Sandplay Therapists of America

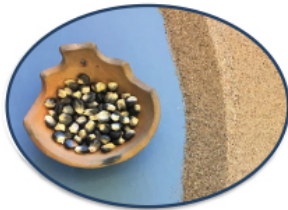
President Sally Sugatt

ISST Board Representatives Betty Jackson and Audrey Punnett

The STA National Conference, *Transformation in Sandplay Through Image, Story and Ceremony*, was held in New Mexico with 190 participants from as far away as Australia

## 2018 NATIONAL CONFERENCE SANDPLAY THERAPISTS OF AMERICA Affiliate, International Society for Sandplay Therapy/ISST

### *Transformation in Sandplay through Image, Story and Ceremony*



THURSDAY, NOV 8-  
SUNDAY, NOV 11, 2018  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM  
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL  
1901 UNIVERSITY BLVD NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

Keynotes: Harriet Friedman, CST-T, LMFT, JA  
and Marion Anderson, CST-T, PhD, JA  
Special Guest Keynote: Donald Kalsched, PhD, JA  
Navajo Celebrant: Lorenzo Jim

#### Co-Sponsored by Chesapeake Beach Professional Seminars

Chesapeake Beach Professional Seminars is approved by the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners to sponsor Category 1 continuing education programs. CBPS is an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP) and may offer NBCC-approved clock hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. CBPS solely is responsible for all aspects of the program. NBCC Provider #5763; approved by the National Association of School Psychologists, approval #1067. CBPS is recognized by SED's State Board for Social Work, provider #0122 and Mental Health Counselors, provider #MHC-0009 and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists, provider #MFT-0008 in New York. CBPS maintains responsibility for this training. Please note that for social workers and Art Therapists VA, PA, FLA, NM and many other states accept our approval status because we are accepted by NBCC. CBPS maintains responsibility for all training.

in November 2018. The conference was opened each day by Lorenzo Jim, Navajo medicine man, with the Navajo practice of facing the four directions and distributing the different colors of ground corn in homage to the earth.

Donald Kalsched presented recent additions to his theory of trauma since his last book, *Trauma and the Soul*. Lorraine Freedle presented a case that demonstrated Dr. Kalsched's theory in sandplay images. Harriet Friedman, led us through her beginnings in sandplay with Dora Kalf, and Marion Anderson offered her perspective on issues we may face in the future. We are especially appreciative of all who contributed time and talent to make this conference such a success.

In May 2019, STA will hold an Assembly – a mini conference – in Minneapolis where those seeking certification will have an opportunity to present cases in a smaller, more intimate setting.

The Sandplay Therapy Institute (STI) will begin its in-depth training program in Jungian sandplay therapy for professionals, presented in eight weekends beginning April 2019 through October 2020 in Dallas, Texas. The intensive, retreat-like weekends promote connection and shared experience in learning the foundational coursework required for certification in sandplay therapy. **For further information:**

[sandplayinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:sandplayinstitute@gmail.com) or [www.sandplay.org](http://www.sandplay.org)

We have been working to streamline and update our STA Bylaws. Part of this update has included expanded and updated Standards for Professional Conduct.

# Taiwan (TSST): The Taiwanese Society for Sandplay Therapy

**President Tsung-chain Michael Huang**  
**ISST Board Representative Grace Hong**

We were privileged to welcome Dr. Martin Kalff to Taiwan November 21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2018. All classes were full. It was a pleasure to welcome him to our country, to spend time with him, and to learn from his expertise.

Our TMs have been busy conducting workshops, personal process, and supervision. Our trainees include people from Malaysia, China, and Hong Kong. In the near future we plan to organize an Intensive Training Program for all who are interested in ISST certification. We are happy to announce that Pi Ling Chen is now certified as our new ISST member. We now have a total of 8 certified members.



Dr. Hong

Dr. Grace Hong contributed a chapter, *Sandplay—Finding the Dragon*, in the book *Into the Heart of Sandplay* to be published in December this year by Analytical Psychology Press. The Kindle version has been available since November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A photo of the author appeared in the book:

We would also like to share the sandplay certifying experience contributed below by our President, Dr. Michael Huang, entitled *Spiritual Journey: Becoming a Sandplay Therapist*.

This article appears in its entirety in Chinese in the upcoming Newsletter of the TSST.

I wrote about how I became involved in learning about sandplay. Many teachers were my mentors, helping me to become a certified sandplay therapist: Kate Adams,

Harriet Friedman, Rie Rogers Mitchell, Grace Hong (my sandplay therapist with whom I have done about 100 sessions of sandplay—personal process and learning about sandplay), Martin Kalff, Barbara Weller, Audrey Punnett, Yashiro Yamanaka, and Kazuhiko Higuchi.



Dr. Juang

**This is the last part of my article translated from Chinese into English:**

I would like to give thanks to my beloved teacher, the former TSST President, Dr. Grace Hong. Without the trust, support, encouragement, and guidance from her, I would not be me in my present form. I would also like to thank my advisor, Lauren Cunningham. She was very helpful when I was applying for the ISST certification. Jill Kaplan, the former STA President invited me to turn in my symbol paper for publication in the STA Journal. I felt very affirmed and moved by this. I would also like to express my appreciation to others, especially my close colleagues: Julianna, Minli, Janet, Helen, Jin-chai, and many others who accompanied me throughout this long journey.

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to say that I have no regrets and no complaints about the long years of learning, hating, loving, and being fascinated by sandplay. I felt as though I was drinking a delicate and very delicious tea, or an aged and perfected wine. No words could describe my innermost feelings. The process is worthy of repeated reflection and reminiscence. To me, finding the inner God's holy journey is the best gift I have ever had as I become older, and hopefully wiser.

# News from Independent Members of ISST

## Sandplay Training in Moscow

**Reported by Ulrike Hinsch, Carlo Ruffino,  
Elvira Valente, Victoria Andreeva**



The first year of Sandplay training in Moscow was completed with the third module held in October. Three ISST TM's are involved in this project: Ulrike Hinsch from Germany, Carlo Ruffino and Elvira Valente from Italy; with the substantial local support from the IR Victoria Andreeva. Another three modules are scheduled for 2019. This year the modules were held over five days, including hours of theory and group supervision.

The group is composed of more than ten trainees from different backgrounds. Some are already IAAP members, many have a knowledge of Sandplay therapy from other ISST TM's who have been to Moscow in the past years, and some are beginners. All members of the group were deeply involved in the training, and actively participated with questions and discussion. The majority of the trainees also started their personal process.

**The first conference on Jungian Analysis and Sandplay Therapy with children and adolescents** will take place in Moscow, 25-28 April 2019. The conference is being organized by the IAAP, the Russian Society for Analytical Psychology and the Association for Child Psychoanalysis (Russia). This will be a very good opportunity to spread knowledge of Sandplay Therapy in Russia.



## News from Bucharest, Romania

**Marina Ionescu, Ulrike Hinsch and Carlo Ruffino**  
**Bucharest Romania, Berlin Germany and Torino Italy**



Over many years a group of Romanian psychotherapists has been working towards Kalfian sandplay certification guided by several teachers. In 2011 and 201 Dr. Roz Heiko from North Carolina, USA and Dr. Ulrike Hinsch from Germany began personal process, training and supervision with our group. They worked with our colleagues from Bucharest, Moldavia, Bulgaria and other neighbouring countries two to three times a year. Our presentation, The Mask: Romanian Traditional Rituals of Healing and Transformation was a highlight of the International ISST Congress in Venice, Italy 2013.

Training in Bucharest is conducted in English. Marina Ionescu (ISST member since 2015) has facilitated the training from the beginning and has become the link between colleagues in Romania and Bulgaria and the ISST teaching members. At this time there are two more registered Independent Routers working towards ISST certification.

With the growing interest in sandplay therapy, a new sandplay program including personal process, training, and group and individual supervision began in 2017 under the coordination of ISST teaching members Dr. Ulrike Hinsch and Dr. Carlo Ruffino from Italy. The first module, held by Ulrike Hinsch, took place in Bucharest, May 25th – 28th and was attended by 12 trainees. The theme of the training was Sandplay Therapy Introduction and Essentials. The group showed their ongoing interest, actively playing and participating. The next module: Sandplay Therapy and Analytical Psychology. Fundamental concepts of Jungian Theory Applied in Sandplay, will be held by Carlo Ruffino from 19th-21st of October. These modules will be taught as part of the next two years' program which focusses on increasing knowledge of sandplay therapy and promoting the experiences and values of Kalfian Sandplay in Romania.



# The Bookshelf



## **Pasaule smiltīs**

The book *Pasaule smiltīs* (The Worlds in the Sand) by Vera Ščerbakova (Batņa) is the first work written and published in Latvia that includes a comprehensive in-depth presentation of the theoretical material of C.G. Jung, Dora Kalff, and their followers. This book helps readers understand the theoretical foundations of sandplay therapy by providing perspectives on the therapeutic process as a whole. The vivid clinical examples included in the book will interest the reader and make it easier to understand the nuances of sandplay therapy. The book is available in the Latvian and Russian languages.

Contact: vera.scerbakova@inbox.lv.

## **The Polyvagal Theory in Therapy: Engaging the Rhythm of Regulation**

By Dana, D. (2018)

New York: W.W. Norton <http://www.debdanalcsw.com/>

Book Recommendation : Barbara Dalziel, CAST

As our understanding of the neurological basis of Kalfian sandplay continues to develop, this 2018 book is a useful, informative resource. The forward of the book is written by Indiana University scientist and the developer of polyvagal theory Stephen Porges with whom clinician and researcher Deb Dana has worked closely.

In the early chapters Dana reviews the theory of the polyvagal system and discusses how it can help psychotherapists understand the various states of our own and our clients' nervous systems, and how these states affect the client's capacity to engage and work on change.

Throughout the book she provides simple guides to help us understand neurological structures and how they function in a continuum of responses from meaningful social connection to the farthest extreme of protective mechanisms. She also provides exercises and assessment tools to implement in clinical practice, including her helpful method of "mapping the nervous system" where she describes how clients work toward an awareness of how they move in and out of regulation. In the final chapter, Dana discusses the need for our nervous systems to engage in "intertwined states" because life experiences may require activation of more than one of the three components of the polyvagal system. For example, the activity of play may move from social engagement to material that triggers a protective response. She discusses the need during play for both the ventral vagal and the sympathetic nervous system to work hand in hand. She also discusses the importance of "safe immobilization," drawing on a state in which the ancient dorsal vagal and the new ventral vagal systems work together. In this state the client can learn that it is possible to sit in silence with another and be safe, and that it is possible to be in a state of self-reflection while being safely held psychologically.

Other recent publications on the neurological basis of the unconscious have neglected the body and the vagus nerve, making Deb Dana's contribution very welcome. One can imagine that she has Kalfian Sandplay in mind as she describes the client's state, and the therapeutic interactions possible in therapy.

# Reflections

History of the sandplay therapy experiences of Heidi Schmid-Reichert, who at the age of 88, is the oldest retired member of ISST in Germany.

**Heidi Schmid-Reichert was interviewed in Frickingen by Thomas Mantel for the Newsletter in November.**

## **How did you start working with sandplay therapy?**

In 1976 a colleague from Zurich told me about his son's therapy with Mrs. Gauchat, a Jungian analyst who worked with sandplay therapy at the C. G. Jung Institute Zurich. As a prospective child psychiatrist I was immediately interested in sandplay therapy and began a personal process with Mrs. Gauchat. Occasionally I also saw Mrs. Kalff. At the age of 48, I trained as a pediatric and adolescent psychiatrist as a guest doctor in pediatric and adolescent psychiatry in Tübingen under Professor Lempp. In 1980 I brought sandplay therapy to this clinic and was supported by Professor Lempp. Vera von Braunbehrens worked as a psychologist in the same department and, at my suggestion, also took a sandplay therapy course with Dora Kalff. In 1982 I was admitted as a child and youth psychiatrist and since then I have worked in my own practice with a focus on sandplay therapy.

## **What are the highlights of your experiences?**

At the beginning of my therapy activity, a father brought his six-year-old daughter to me. After the diagnostic phase I informed the parents in a conversation that the girl did not have mental problems. It turned out that the girl's mother had been in bed almost exclusively for about half a year due to a severe depression. After about a quarter of a year of treating the mother, the aggressive abnormalities of the girl regressed. My sandplay therapy practice has focused on the treatment of autistic children and anorexic patients. Since I was able to treat adults as a specialist in psychotherapeutic medicine, mothers and fathers often came to me for longer therapies if this seemed sensible or necessary.

From 1998 to 2015, I invited colleagues from the Tübingen working group (TAST) every two years for a week to our holiday home in Croix Valmer, in Provence. In the mornings, we held case studies, each of which had a specific theme. In the afternoons we explored the beautiful surroundings. The evening meal prepared together also promoted our personal relationships. (See photo).

## **When did the Tübingen Working Group for Sand Play Therapy (TAST) come into being and how did it develop?**

My school friend Elisabeth Kiefner told me that Margarethe Stern from Tübingen also worked with sandplay therapy. After a first meeting we decided to hold regular collegial supervision meetings. In 1987 they started with Margarethe Stern, Margarethe Dürr, Valeska Dufft, Vera von Braunbehrens, Brigitte Srockhinger-Mantel Brigitte Schorpp-Heger, and me. Later, as a result of growing interest from colleagues, two supervision groups with 10 members each developed under the leadership of Margarethe Stern. After her death in 2005 I took over the leadership of these two supervision groups. At the same time, we organized a one-day seminar twice a year in Tübingen with speakers from Germany and abroad. These seminars were very popular with 40-50 participants each. This year the 54th TAST seminar took place. Up to my 85th year of life I have treated patients of all ages, and have very much enjoyed finding out that I could still learn something from them. At this time I also handed over the two supervision groups and the organization of the TAST seminars to Günter Still, who had been a member of TAST for many years.

### **What value do you see in the membership in the ISST?**

I find the rapid worldwide spread of the method and the international exchange among sandplay therapists very important. This is because archetypal images appear worldwide in sandplay as a culturally unspecific direct expression of the collective unconscious. For example, angels, heroes and demons appear in all cultures. The culture-specific forms of expression in sandplay in various countries also make the exchange very interesting.

### **Is there anything else you would like to say in conclusion?**

I could no longer imagine a life without sandplay therapy. Sandplay has had a great influence on my personal and professional development. I am grateful that fate opened up this way for me.

## **Personal Reflection from Hannah-Valeria Grishko, TM ISTA on her move from the UK to Israel**

As a new member of ISTA I have taken the last few months to settle into my new life in Jerusalem and to restart my psychotherapeutic and sandplay practice. Contributing a chapter to a new book titled *Into the Heart of Sandplay* (edited by D. Sherwood and B. Jackson) during my transition from London to Jerusalem proved to be a meaningful parallel to my experience as a sandplay therapist while making this important move. The book explores and aims to understand what makes sandplay practice meaningful and inspiring for the practitioners themselves, making it a collection of personal narratives. Writing the chapter allowed me to think about my journey of development and growth that my sandplay

training and practice fostered over the years, which was deeply connected to my experience as an immigrant who has lived in multiple countries since adolescence. As I reflected, dreamt and wrote about my observations and experiences, my outer life was also on the move. This parallel process allowed me to see in an embodied fashion the connections between sand as a solid base in my personal experience, my work as a sandplay therapist that grounds me in embodied symbolic life and the deeply gratifying feeling of having my sandplay practice and collection travel with me to a new country. The collection itself became a real physical link between my professional lives in the UK and now Israel.

# Some Impressions of the ITW 2018 in Malta

## **From Liat Hadar (Israel)**

For me Malta was a unique experience in the world of Sandplay therapy. I felt blessed that I could learn with such experienced teachers and supervisors from different places in the world and with different outlooks on Sandplay. The program was invested and rich in variety. Meeting other therapists from all over the world was fascinating. One could see that we all actually speak a common language that can quickly unite us and break down barriers. And it was interesting to also see the differences. In the opening ceremony, all the participants brought a little sand from their own countries, and slowly the different kinds and colors of sand became one sand. At the close of the workshop each of us took home a little bag of this mixed sand. On the miniature table I discovered each day new miniatures that attracted my attention and also represented different symbols from the world. At the close of the week I was very touched by the wrapped-miniature give away. I was left with a sense of many cultures, and a concrete memory of the meaningful symbols in my life. Finally I would like to thank our Maltese hosts of the ITW and especially Claire for our wonderful reception in Malta. Thanks to the Teachers and Organizers- Lenore, Alex, Natori, Carlo, Thomas, Bea and special appreciation to Betty who guided this “summer camp” so well.

## **Bati Lowenstein (Israel)**

We were a group of five women from Israel who arrived in Malta, four students and our teacher Lenore Steinhart, whose Sandplay program was the basis for us to attend the Malta ITW. We were in different stages of Sandplay training. For me it was the second time to participate in a learning seminar on Jungian Sandplay, as two years before I attended the Riga ITW in Latvia. I was full of expectation about group learning, and new meetings other

sandplay students from around the world. Meeting all these people in smaller groups through personal conversations was exciting. For me the group supervisions were especially meaningful, as they combined the great pleasure of learning and new thoughts and understanding different aspects of Sandplay cases related to the cultures that were presented. Thank you to all the organizers, teachers and supervisors that enabled this workshop to become actuality. For me, the international aspect of the workshop was the most meaningful part of learning. Much thanks to Claire for her wonderful heart- warming welcome. Malta itself in its landscapes, olive trees and sabra cacti and weather reminded me of Israel.

## **Iris Mindel (Israel)**

I enjoyed the week in Malta very much. This was my first time in an intensive international workshop. I was impressed with the precise organization and how the organizers thought about so many details beginning with creating Pen-Pal contacts before the workshop by mail leading to the first face to face meeting the first evening, breaking the ice. Hearing sandplay lectures from teachers from many countries was fascinating. It was enriching to meet colleagues from around the world, and hear about their therapeutic experiences within their local therapeutic frameworks, to receive supervision and to attend supervision on other cases. I am already looking forward to the next intensive. This is also an opportunity to thank all the colleagues and teachers who contributed their knowledge



# Report On The ITW Malta 2018

Prepared by Lenore Steinhardt, Betty Jackson, Carlo Ruffino



*Typical Valetta street catering to tourists.*

From August 5<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> this year the Archbishop's Seminary in Rabat, on the historic Mediterranean island of Malta, hosted a unique event. Two groups of over eighty people altogether travelled from over twenty countries around the world to participate in the ISST- sponsored intensive training week (ITW) in Jungian-Kalffian sandplay. The ITW occurs once every two years concurrent with the ISST Board Meeting and is intended to provide inexpensive, high quality sandplay training in a country where such training is not readily available. The 2018 ITW organizing committee – Betty Jackson, Carlo Ruffino and

Lenore Steinhardt – was chosen at the 2017 Board meeting in Hawaii, and Malta was chosen as a pleasant and accessible location. Alexander Esterhuyzen, ISST President, was available throughout the organizing process for consultation and suggestions. Claire Francica, Maltese Sandplay advanced candidate, helped enormously with all aspects of the ITW onsite logistics, which included the important task of finding the Archbishop's Seminary in Rabat, where for a very low fee, sandplay students could enjoy individual rooms and full board. The students participated in a week of lectures, supervision sessions, and specialized writing groups. They also enjoyed a fascinating excursion to Malta's archeological temple sites and participated in memorable experiential opening and closing ceremonies.



*Takuji Natori from Japan speaking on Archetypal Psychology and Sandplay.*

During the year leading up to the workshops, the committee members donated their time and expertise to planning the program. A save-the-date flyer was sent out to ISST members who contacted their students. The

response was immediate. It quickly became clear that we would have to open two week-long workshops, instead of the standard one week, to accommodate all those who had expressed their interest, including several Maltese therapists. Each group was limited to about forty people. Several ISST Board Members proposed lectures and from these proposals we designed a program of five lecture days of major sandplay themes with four or five lectures per day. The themes were the Jungian basis of sandplay, myth and fairytales in sandplay, sandplay with children, and sandplay with adults. In addition, we provided supervision for all levels of sandplay training, and offered groups for writing symbol papers and case papers.



*Two Russian students with their collages created on the last day of Week One.*

The first week lecturers/supervisors were Alexander Esterhuyzen (Hong Kong), Carlo Ruffino (Italy), Betty Jackson (USA), Lenore Steinhardt, (Israel) Bea Donald (Canada), Takuji Natori (Japan) and Thomas Mantel (Germany). Alex, Natori and Bea had to leave after the first week, and Maria Kendler (Switzerland) joined the lecture team for the second week.

We wish to thank all the students in both groups, of all ages and levels of sandplay experience, who chose to participate. The countries represented were Malta, Spain, USA, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, Japan, Turkey, Romania, Hungary, Lithuania, Russia, Brazil, Israel, Netherlands, Denmark, South Africa, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Macau, Singapore, China, South Korea, Hong Kong. The photos convey some of the excitement and exhilarating atmosphere of these two intensive sandplay training weeks in Malta.



*Spectacular Xlendi coastline of the small island of Gozo.*