



TEXAS

Association for Play Therapy



A Welcome from the President -

First, let me say that it is an honor to serve as the 2006 – 2007 TAPT President. My objectives for this year include:

- (a) adoption of measurable goals and objectives as benchmarks for continued growth,
- (b) advance the theory and practice of Play Therapy across mental health, academic, and primary care professions through outreach, and
- (c) increase opportunities for TAPT members to contribute to the process of decision making.

I will be sending out postings asking for your opinions throughout the year. Please take this opportunity to let the Board know your thoughts and how we can support your

efforts to advance Play Therapy in your area.

This past month has been a whirlwind of activity. The Fall Retreat in El Paso provided a great opportunity for Board members to get to know each other and establish goals and objectives for this year.

The Past President's message highlights the activities of the Board meeting. Two new ad hoc committees were added to the list of TAPT committees. One is a conference key note speaker search committee; the other is a strategic planning committee created for the purpose of helping to identify goals and objectives as well as processes for the evaluation of adopted goals and objectives. More on committee progress to come.

A representative for the El Paso Chamber of Commerce presented a short program and discussed the Chamber's strategies for supporting our 2007 convention. The Chamber's level of support will be amazing. They will provide bags with information about the area and conference information for each guest. They will also provide a banner either at the airport or at the hotel announcing the conference.

The APT conference in Toronto was wonderful. The city is warm and welcoming. APT provided a host of learning and fellowship opportunities. I urge you to attend the 2007 conference in Hollywood. It promises to be a rewarding experience (and you get to play and earn CEU credit too!).

Barbara-Ann Hall,

President

Texas Association for Play Therapy

**Fresh
New Look!**

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST-

- HOT TOPICS FROM THE PRESIDENT.
- DOES MY WORK REALLY MATTER?
- THE CONFERENCE IS COMING
- PLAYSPACE?
- GETTING THE WORD OUT!

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YourSpace PlaySpace

Hey gang! Do you have an article, research entry, or an interesting story related to Play Therapy that you believe would assist others in our network?

The editor of the newsletter has a revolving entry policy

for all of those. We want to hear from our licensed professionals as well as our practitioners of tomorrow (a.k.a. Students)!

Contact the editor @ hailosiris@yahoo.com.



Alamo Chapter

Greetings from the Alamo Chapter! We had a successful Fall Workshop on September 23rd, with Dr. Mary Morrison, LPC, NCC, RPT, who spoke on "The Play Therapy Process: Lessons Learned from a Traumatized Boy."

Approximately 75 mental health professionals, play therapists, and students attended.

At our October 9th meeting, Melissa Dilworth, LPC, ART-



BC, and clinical director of The Children's Shelter in San Antonio, presented on the integration and interpretation of art and play therapy.

Our next meeting is December 11th. Cheryl Jones, MA, LPC-Intern will present on "Puppets in Play Therapy: Expression of Self through Symbolic Action."

The Alamo Chapter continues to meet every other month starting in February (Feb., April, June, and so on) on the second Monday at 7:00pm at the Jewish Community Center located at 12500 N.W. Military Hwy.

Coastal Bend Chapter

The Coastal Bend Play Therapy Association will have it's annual joint meeting with the Marriage and Family group. This joint meeting has been a productive place to network, share ideas and gain from the training provided by practitioners throughout the region.



In September 2006, we were fortunate to have Linda Homeyer, Ph.D, LPC, RPT-S present "Compassion, Fatigue and the Play Therapist" and "Learning the Language of Play: Is All in the Translation"

Far West Chapter

**Self Care for Play Therapists,
December 1, 2006,
1:00 PM- 4:00 PM
Phronsie Kelly-Zion, Presenter**

Phronsie Kelly-Zion, previous TAPT board member will present on stress management and prevention of burnout for play therapists.

The cost is \$20 for non-members and free for members. Association for Play Therapy, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Social Worker credit will be awarded. The TAPT's 2007 Conference, "Understanding Art through Play" will be held here in El Paso on March 30-31, 2007.

The keynote speaker will be Eilana Gil and presentations will be conducted by many highly skilled play therapists from around the state. If you are interested in volunteering for the conference, please contact us.

**We're on the web!
www.fwtapt.com**

The Hill County Chapter generally meets the 2nd Friday of every month from 11:30 - 12:00 for a business meeting and has a presenter immediately following from 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. (Brown Bag lunch). CEU's are provided free of charge to our membership.

Recent presentations have included the use of music, art, and Sandplay in our practices. The meetings are great fun, inspiring, and a wonderful oppor-



Hill County Chapter

tunity for networking. Chapter dues are \$15.00 per year. Every January, we have an overnight workshop/retreat in Wimberley, TX,

tations. Most recently the themes have been Filial Therapy and Experiential/Expressive Therapies.

at Rocky River Ranch. The topics for this workshop vary, but we generally try to have a theme running through three separate presentations.



The newly elected board of the NTC-TAPT met in August. Chapter President Jeanne McKinney reported that the publicity

North Texas Chapter

table at the Summer Conference of the Center for Play therapy at the University of North Texas had been a success. A number of shirts and tote bags with the new logo were sold.

Recently Dr. James, Ardis, and Lilly Freeman presented on "Using Pet Therapy in Play Therapy." Dr. Freeman, an elementary

school counselor, discussed the populations that benefit from Animal Assisted Therapy, training of therapist and certifications for pets as animal assistants. He and Lilly gave a practical demonstration. Ardis, an elementary librarian, provided attendee with a list of topic specific children's books with animal characters.

Sam Houston



The board is excited to welcome new board members Mary Engle and Dr. Yvonne Garza. Dr. Garza is an assistant professor of counseling at Sam Houston State University. She and Mary bring new energy and leadership to our organization.

SHAPT looks forward to an exciting slate of programs for this year. We hope to see increasing numbers of veteran members, new members, and visitors at our general meetings.

In November, Dr. Jon Sneed presented "Common Psychiatric

Diagnoses of Children of Which Play Therapists Need to Be Aware.

January 27, 2007: Annual Winter Workshop – Dr. Theresa Kestley to Present on Sandplay Therapy.

We're on the web!
www.shapt.org

Catch Our Past-President Still Playing!

I just returned from the Association for Play Therapy Conference in Toronto. As usual, it was a fun, informative and a rejuvenating conference. I saw several of our TAPT members at the conference, but if you did not attend the Toronto APT conference, I hope to see you next October at the APT conference in Hollywood, California.

Speaking of conferences, the next TAPT conference will be in El Paso on March 30th and 31st of 2007. TAPT is proud to have Eliana Gil as our keynote speaker and pre-conference presenter. We anticipate a wonderful conference in El Paso with Eliana. The Board met at the Camino Real Hotel in El Paso for our fall board meeting and found the hotel and the area to be a charming location for our next conference. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

In 2008, TAPT is looking forward to going back to Dallas for our 15th annual conference where Scott Reviere of Louisiana will be our pre-conference presenter and keynote speaker. Scott is a dynamic and entertaining

presenter and I think he will be a wonderful speaker for our return to Dallas.



The last TAPT conference in Dallas was in 1999.

If you received and read the monthly update sent out last year and/or if you attended the conference in Austin, you know that we are changing our logo to the APT logo. We have voted on the

“In 2008, TAPT is looking forward to going back to Dallas for our 15th annual conference...”

new logo, retaining the TAPT colors of teal and blue, and it will be used beginning this fall. Our website is currently being re-designed and will be a dynamic website that will offer many new features. We look forward this year to being able to register for the conference online and pay with credit cards. We

also will be able to have our election ballot and voting online. Watch for the new look and new functions of our TAPT website that will be launched in the next couple of months.

We are coming up to the time when we have to look for members who would like to run for a seat on the board.

The board positions that will be available for the 2007-08 TAPT year are President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Director-at-Large. The President-Elect is a three-year term, Director-at-Large is for two years and the Secretary and Treasurer positions are for one year. If you have any nominations for the board positions, please contact me at LMMR13@aol.com or call me at 956-330-3437. I am always interested in input from our members and am happy to answer any questions you may have about the commitment involved with serving on the TAPT Board.

Linda Manning Ramirez

Immediate Past-President 2006-07

Many Thanks & Best Wishes to you Susan!

As many of you know Susan Lee is moving to Tennessee at the end of October.

Susan has resigned from the TAPT Board. She was honored at a meeting of the Hill Country Chapter and presented with a TAPT award for her many outstanding years of service to the



Texas Association of Play Therapy, her dedication and outstanding leadership in Play

Therapy and the legacy she leaves behind through the lives and hearts of all those she has nurtured. Susan plans to continue her advocacy for Play Therapy in Tennessee.

Thank you Susan for the years of passion for play. We will miss you deeply.



TO **THIS** STAR
THE WORK **YOU** DO
MATTERS THE WORLD

KEEP YOUR PLAY UP!

2007 Conference

March 30, 2007
Pre-Conference

March 31, 2007
Conference

Camino Real Hotel
101 S. El Paso Street
El Paso, Texas
(915) 534-3000



Understanding the Art of Play



Eliana Gil, Ph.D.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Aren't you tired of uninventive, dull, and expensive conferences?

This is THE conference for you.

Tap into the creative counselor within without tapping out your bank account! The 2007 TAPT Conference promises to be a blockbuster!

An outstanding professional education program is being planned, with Eliana Gil, Ph.D. as the *keynote speaker*.

With your support, the 2007 TAPT Conference will be the largest and most successful ever! Make your plans NOW to attend the State's foremost event in 2007 for professionals involved in the growing counseling discipline of play therapy!



I HAD NO IDEA!

- Online APT 2007 conference presentation proposals due Nov. 30, 2006.
- I can exhibit at 2007 TAPT conference by contacting Leah Miller @ LMiller@ccocea.com.
- I can advertise in this newsletter by contacting the editor, osiris, @ hailosiris@yahoo.com
- I can speak directly to the TAPT President, Barbara, by contacting her @ lsspbah@ix.netcom.com.
- Our webpage has been upgraded!
- There is space for my article, observations, & comments in this newsletter!
- Play Therapy professional & students have enough room to play, promote and support each other at TAPT!
- TAPT is all that and a bag of low fat apple chips!

Membership... belonging is a good thing!

TAPT has a dual membership policy with TAPT's parent organization, the Association for Play Therapy (APT), Dual membership requires persons joining TAPT to join APT and individuals living in Texas who join APT to also become members of TAPT. The purpose of dual membership is to increase collaboration and interaction between APT and its state branches - a partnership TAPT supports. **What an incredible deal!**

Benefits of the dual Membership

- APT's & TAPT's Top-notch quarterly Newsletters
- Membership Directory with Local Chapters
- Annual Journal

- Annual International Membership Directory
- Annual International Conference Discounts on Play Therapy Books & Videos
- Optional Professional Malpractice Insurance
- Toll-Free Legal Care Helpline
- Helpful Staff
- APT Registers Play Therapists (RPT, RPT-S)
- CEU Approval
- Rewards Student Research

YOU CAN NOT LOSE.
Isn't there someone you
know that would love to hear
this news?



**BECOME A MEMBER OF
TAPT & APT.
PASS IT ON!**

We want to hear from you!

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Call for Nominations

The time is fast approaching that puts us again in our election cycle! This is a call

to all members to please submit your nominations for the following board positions:

- President-Elect,
- Secretary,
- Treasurer,
- (1) Director-at-Large.

The officers make up the executive board who meet 4 times a year. The Directors-at-Large meet with the full board twice a year. If you know of anyone who has



leadership qualities and most importantly has an interest in working with TAPT to promote play therapy, please submit their names. I will contact them to be sure they are willing to serve and to answer any questions they may have concerning the board responsibilities and positions.

