



Nurture Our Children . . . Nurture Our Future

TAPT Newsletter

Volume 15, No. 2--Summer 2006

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	Open TAPT Website		

TAPT President's Update

Linda M. Ramirez, RN, MEd, LPC-S, RPT-S



Once again we have had a successful conference thanks to our volunteers, our members, our board members, and especially our conference participants. Our gathering in Austin proved to be a wonderful and uplifting experience for most who attended according to the evaluations and comments we received during and after the event.

On behalf of the TAPT Board, I give a heartfelt thank you to Rise Van Fleet for being such a dynamic and wonderful presenter. The TAPT Board & Conference Committee hopes you enjoyed Rise's presentations and learned valuable information with which to help families improve their relationships.

We wish to thank all of our presenters for their enormous contribution to our conference, as well. As always, there are snags in presenting a conference with the number of participants and presenters that we regularly have. I sincerely apologize on behalf of the TAPT Board if you had an unfavorable or unpleasant experience in any way in connection with our conference. We are aware of many of the problems that occurred and are actively striving to remedy those problematic situations so your experience at our conference can be fun, inspiring, positive and educational.

TAPT is presently going through many changes. We hope you will bear with us through our growth and development toward our goals to serve you better as a professional organization. We hope that our vision to offer our membership more information and communication through improvements in our website will meet your needs. We also hope to offer more training throughout the year, as one of the main purposes for our organization is to promote and train others in play therapy. So, we look forward to our changes with great anticipation, and hope that what we do as a Board will always be to better your experience as a member and increase the knowledge and awareness of

others in the benefits of play therapy.

We now look forward to our next conference to be held in El Paso on March 30 - April 1, 2007 with Eliana Gil. We know we are in for a treat with Eliana presenting. She has a wealth of information in the field of trauma and abuse. Plan now to attend our first conference in El Paso! We anticipate a great conference as we strive to make this annual event better each year.

Suggestions and comments are welcome at LMMR13@aol.com.

TAPT Board of Directors

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Play Therapy Travels Diana Garza Louis, LPC-S, LMFT-S, RPT



APT Delegation to Mexico

This picture is of the meeting of the newly formed Asociacion Mexicana de Profesionales de Terapia de Juego, in Cholula, Puebla, Mexico. From left to right: Felipe Gutierrez, delegation coordinator in Mexico; the interpreter; Linda Homeyer, APT President; Bill Burns, APT Executive Director; Athena Drewes, APT Board member; Diana Garza Lewis, APT interpreter; and delegation participants representing various parts of the country in Mexico. APT hopes that both organizations will provide coordination and reciprocity for CEUs either independently or jointly. Not pictured here: TAPT member Sue Isola who also traveled with the delegation.



I had the honor of participating in a delegation of the Association for Play Therapy (APT) visiting Mexico to encourage and support a Play Therapy Association there. I attended as APT's interpreter at a meeting in Cholula, Puebla, Mexico, together with Bill Burns, Executive Director of APT ;Linda Homeyer, Ph. D., President of APT ; and Athena Drewes, Ph. D. Board Member. The delegation met with representatives from various disciplines in Mexico (Therapists, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Educators,) who are committed to forming a Play Therapy organization in Mexico and wish to follow in the footsteps of APT to provide training, education and support of Play Therapy. After discussing various issues dealing with the desire to include various disciplines, setting standards for training and credentialing, and some administrative and legal details, the Board of Directors was formed that include the President, Vice President and Secretary. They convened with the decision to review APT's bylaws and adapt them to the new association: Asociacion Nacional de Profesionales de Terapia de Juego. They will be meeting in Puebla, Mexico in late April and develop the structure for the new association. One of the goals that APT has for meeting with delegates from Mexico and Canada is to have some reciprocity for their attending training in those countries as well as us attending training in their countries, acquiring experiences and broadening our educational opportunities and continuing education credits.

After the delegation meeting on April 6, 2006, Linda Homeyer, Ph. D., Sue Isola, LPC, and I had the privilege of participating in a conference, sponsored by the Centro de Terapia Familiar y de Pareja (CEFAP), at the First International Congress for Play Therapy, Sexual Abuse and Abuse of Children, and Academic Problems. Eliana Gil was the Pre conference and Keynote Speaker. Linda Homeyer presented on Compassion Fatigue, Play Therapy with victims of abuse, and a panel discussion on play therapy and aggressive children with Sue and Diana. Sue presented on Working with grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, issues for victims of sexual abuse, and the silent playroom. Diana presented on a case of Trichotillomania and on sandplay. There was an overwhelming response by the participants (mostly students) who were so appreciative of all the information we provided, having exceptional questions and amazing enthusiasm. After lots of shopping, we also had the opportunity to attend some wonderful workshops on various topics relating to play therapy, abuse and academic issues.

We hope that in the near future, conferences in Mexico (and Canada) on Play Therapy will have the approval of the new association(s) and will be counted as CEU credits with APT. Hope to see you in Cancun, Guadalajara, Acapulco, or other wonderful sites where we may enjoy the cultural experiences of our neighboring country, learn more about play in other cultures, and add to the selection of miniatures in our playrooms!

Editor's Report

Phronsie Kelly-Zion



Thanks to all members who completed and returned the survey that was included in the ballots mailed to you in late January. The information provided was tallied and discussed at the April Board meeting. Following is the data received and the decisions voted on by the Board in response to the data:

148 surveys were counted. Not all questions were answered by each respondent.

Newsletter frequency:

About right - 125

Too often - 5

Too infrequent - 10

Newsletter delivery:

Prefer online - 42

Prefer paper via mail - 77

Half online, half paper - 25

Computer access:

Home only - 48

Work only - 11

Home and work - 85

No computer - 3

Newsletter content: (members were asked to indicate what they want included)

Upcoming trainings - 133

Board Member reports - 75

Chapter reports - 76

Scholarly articles about PT - 119

Personal perspective articles about PT - 111

Legal/ethical issues - 131

Newsletter access:

Members only - 58

Anyone who visits the website - 77

Based on the survey results, the frequency of the newsletter and the content will continue as it is. The most difficult issue has been the transition from a paper version to online. After the survey was mailed to our members, TAPT received information from APT about a restructuring of fees and a request to move to uniform dues across all branches. Please know that there was much discussion amongst the Board about how best to serve our membership. We agreed to move to the uniform dues that will keep your joint dues (APT and TAPT) as low as we could manage for you. The consequence of this decision is a loss of revenue to TAPT of over \$5000.00 per year. Based on this, we cannot afford to send out paper newsletters. The Board unanimously voted that we must continue to use the online format. I apologize for the lack of the paper newsletter and had hoped for a way to have both, but it isn't feasible. We, as a Board, continue to look for ways to improve your

online experience and the services available and will continue to update you about future changes.

If you have any other questions about the survey or the newsletter in general, please email me at phronsiekz@mac.com. In accordance with the TAPT By-laws, the survey results are sealed and being held by the TAPT secretary.

Membership Committee Report

Kathy Eubanks

Welcome to all of our new members! Thank you to the Hill Country Chapter of TAPT for a wonderful conference. Congratulations to Yueh-Ting Lee, winner of the drawing for a free conference registration to the 2007 TAPT Conference in El Paso. On behalf of the TAPT Board, thanks to Ginger Corn for her service on the Membership Committee.

I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it. - Pablo Picasso

Theraplay® is a Great Addition to Traditional Methods of Play Therapy

Mary Ring

Almost four years ago I began treating adoptees from foreign countries on a more regular basis. The problems with some of these children in their adopted homes were unexpectedly quite challenging to the parent. I had a fellow play therapist who had adopted three children from South America into her home about ten years before and had shared how she had found Theraplay to be a great modality to help them build the bond with her and other family members. I listened with interest but at that time did not have a need to pursue this treatment protocol any further.

Because of the children coming in for treatment, I decided to check into this modality further and made the decision to attend the Introductory Workshop on Theraplay at the Theraplay Institute in Chicago, Illinois. I went back to attend the Intermediate workshop six months later and have continued on developing this aspect of my treatment protocol. I have found that the Theraplay activities are useful in developing the relationship between myself and children on a faster pace and therefore, even with those children I do treat in the play room, our relationship has developed quite adequately even before we go into the play room. I have now made six trips overseas to work with therapists, school professionals, and orphanage workers to help develop their abilities in building relationships with the children in their care. Many of the workshops are for using Theraplay activities.

Theraplay is a short term treatment to help children build a healthy self concept and to trust in relationships with others by using fun engaging activities. These activities are based on the five foundational qualities of a healthy parent-child relationship which are structure, engagement, nurture, challenge and playfulness. The Marschak Interaction Method (MIM) is used to assess these five dimensions of the relationship between the child and a caregiver. Theraplay® techniques can be used with a child and parents or caretakers, with all family members, or in groups such as a classroom or group organizational setting. I have found Theraplay useful in all of these areas of service. If you are interested in training in you can visit the website of www.theraplay.org . If you

have any other questions about my use of Theraplay, please write Mary.Ring@hfbc.org.

(Theraplay® is a registered trademark of The Theraplay Institute in Chicago, Illinois*)

Chapter News

Alamo Chapter

Phronsie Kelly-Zion



The Alamo Chapter continues to meet every other month and both recent presentations were very well received. In February, Dr Jim Koretz presented on Object Relations Theory in Play Therapy. In April, ACTAPT board member Pedro Ricardo Gonzales (soon to join TAPT as Treasurer) presented "Using Board Games in Play Therapy".

In June, the presenter will be Dr Susan Wynne, who is a child psychiatrist. The location of the meeting will change. Please check your announcement for the exact location and address.

As a chapter, we are very grateful to the SAMM shelter for hosting us and providing meeting space for the past year. We have enjoyed being there but did experience acoustical difficulties that are prompting us to move.

Elections for new officers will occur at the June 12 meeting so please plan to attend.

Hill Country News

Denise Hall

The Board has completed revisions on our bylaws. Having been approved by the TAPT board meeting prior to the state conference, these new bylaws will be presented to the chapter members in May.



In February, a displaced play therapist from New Orleans gave an insightful perspective on her personal and professional journey. It was a nice follow-up to the winter conference on healing of trauma through play therapy.

In March, Sue Lee presented on Family Play Therapy. In May, Ruth Airhart presented "Using Mandalas for Focus and Centering".

Thanks to all the Hill County members who volunteered many hours at the state conference. It was a great success!

North Texas

Kathy Eubanks



"Ethics in Play Therapy through the use of Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy", presented by Alan Katzen, was the training for the May chapter meeting.

The June meeting will be the election of officers for the chapter and a general networking meeting before the summer break. Inquiries regarding membership, meeting times, and locations may be obtained via e-mail to keuban@mail.twu.edu.

Sam Houston Chapter

Mary Ring

Our membership is now 106 due to the membership drive during our annual winter workshop on January 21. The presenters were Dr. Yvonne Garza, the new play therapy professor at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX and Dr. Richard Watts, the director of the Counselor Education Program at the same institution. They presented on "Using Play Therapy with the Hispanic Population" and "Ethics for the Play Therapist," respectively.



During our March 24 meeting we heard Kathy McDonald and Mary Engle present on "Using Animals in Play Therapy." This topic was well received. We have several play therapists in the Houston area that are pursuing this modality of treatment.

On May 5, Gabe Lomas presented "Doing Play Therapy with Children in the CPS System." We will also be electing new officers that evening and installing them into office during our annual dinner in August when our Past President Jay Potter will present.

Coastal Bend Lauri Stroebel



The Coastal Bend Play Therapy Association has monthly meetings at the First Baptist Church - 3115 Ocean Drive - Corpus Christi, Texas. We meet in the activity building at the back of the main church from 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. We provide one hour of continuing education units each month, following the business meeting. These CEU's are free for members and apply to Licensed Professional Counselors and Registered Play Therapists. The trainings are educational and fun for everyone whether you need continuing education hours or not. These meetings also provide a place to share ideas, network and relax from our busy schedules. At our May meeting, we will elect new officers for the coming year and conduct a presentation on one subject of interest from the material learned at the state conference. We are planning an extended workshop on the first Saturday in June 2006 that will provide 6 hours of CEU training. Details will be announced soon and you can obtain more information at cbaplaytherapy@yahoo.com. Our chapter is also planning a retreat on September 15th and 16th, 2006 entitled "24 Hour Beach Retreat". Our presenter will be Linda Homeyer, Ph.D., L.P.C., R.P.T-S. On Friday the 15th she will present "Compassion Fatigue and the Play Therapist" (2 hrs. CEU's) and on Saturday the 16th the title of her presentation will be "Learning the Language of Play: It's All In the Translation" (6 hrs. CEU's). The cost of the retreat/training will be \$110 for Coastal Bend Chapter members and \$125 for non-members (early registration). This will include the 8 hours of CEU's, snacks on Friday night at a get together after the training, continental breakfast on Saturday morning and box lunch Saturday noon. The cost of a room at the hotel where the retreat is held will be around \$100 for up to 4 in a room. So bunk with your friends and come join us for an excellent experience with Dr. Homeyer and a retreat to soothe the soul. For more information: cbaplaytherapy@yahoo.com.

Far West Texas Chapter Leah Miller

FWTAPT began the year with a great presentation by Mayu Quevedo. FWTAPT has also planned some great presentations and workshops where members can receive a total of 20 hours of play therapy, LPC and Social Work CEU's throughout the year.

March 24, 2006

Mayu Quevedo

Dee Ray

"Child Centered Play Therapy"



Future Presentation

June 9, 2006	Sandra Kern	"The Basics of Sandtray Play Therapy"
September, 2006	Geri Glover	TBA
October, 2006	Dr. Cristina Cruz	TBA
December, 2006	TBA	TBA

FWTAPT is revamping all policies and procedures. Notebooks for conferences are being created to streamline planning and implementation. New leadership is being recruited. FWTAPT is gearing up to begin the initial phases of preparation of the 2007 TAPT conference in El Paso.

FWTAPT meets four times a year, and has a yearly conference in the fall. CEU's are provided free of charge to our membership. Credit can be given to RPTs, LPCs and we have added credit for social workers. Check our website for upcoming presentations and information about the planning of our fall conference: www.fwtapt.com.

The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border? - Pablo Casals

The Dan E. Homeyer Award of the Texas Association for Play Therapy

The Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award of the Texas Association for Play Therapy (TAPT) bestows two \$500 research awards twice a year.

To qualify for the Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award, you must:

- Attend or teach at a Texas college or university
- Use play therapy in some aspect of your research
- Have approval of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB) [attach copy of approval letter/document to the form linked below]

Once the research is completed:

- Write a short synopsis of the research findings which will be published in the TAPT Newsletter (in such form that will not preclude your publishing the findings elsewhere)
- Present the findings at the next TAPT Annual Conference (held in April). The Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award Fund will pay for two nights at the conference hotel and TAPT will provide a gratis conference registration.

The TAPT Research Committee will do a blind review of your proposal. Please email the proposal, described in the document linked below, to lhomeyer@gvtc.com

- A description of the research project including the research design
- Maximum of three pages, double-spaced, 10-12 point font.
- Please do not have your name or other identifying information on the proposal pages

To open the application for the Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award, [click on this link](#).

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