

# FALL NEWSLETTER



## NYAPT Board Members

Athena Drewes  
President

Mary Anne Assini  
Past President

Stephen Demanchick  
Vice President

Rebekah Crofford  
Corresponding Secretary

Elizabeth Davis  
Recording Secretary

Gabriel Lomas  
Treasurer

Jillian Kelly  
Director

Annie Monaco  
Director

David Schatzkamer  
Director

## President's Message



For many of us, this time of year starts the academic schedule of activity in our jobs or graduate training, be it in a school setting, university setting, or even within agencies and dealing with incoming interns and student placements. It also signals the end of the wonderful summer weather we enjoyed on the heels of a rough winter. It also signals the start of fall and the cooler weather, getting out long sleeves and jackets, and making preparations to close down pools and put away our outdoor items.

This time of year also signals the annual Association for Play Therapy conference held the week before Columbus Day. This year it was in Atlanta, Georgia, and many New Yorkers attended, with some members having presented. Hopefully you got to attend as it really gives you a sense of belonging to an organization of like-minded, kindred spirits who enjoy play therapy! It also allows you get play therapy training by the best in the field along with earning the necessary CEs for your RPT and RPT-S as well as CEs for renewal of licensure in your discipline. Plus you get to shop and buy up lots of play therapy books, toys and puppets!

This year at APT changes will be made in the Gold Branch requirements along with additional tiers available. I will report back in the Winter NYAPT newsletter on the changes and how it will impact our Branch.

I hope that those of you who attended APT this year will consider writing a column about a workshop you attended to help share that knowledge with us!

This time of year also heralds the preparations for publicizing our upcoming **annual State Branch conference, April 1-2, 2016 at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany, NY** with **Dr. Linda Homeyer** giving training on Sandplay Across the Ages. She will focus on how to utilize the sandtray in working with trauma. We will also have an evening of Supervision training for RPT/S given by Dr. Stephen Demanchick. Chair Mary Anne Assini, along with her committee, will be getting the brochure out to you soon and it will also be on our website, [www.newyorkapt.info](http://www.newyorkapt.info), with easy paypal and credit card payment.

**Our 2016 conference** will have a new feature, in that we will be **including CEs from ALL** disciplines (NYS social work, social work CEs covering other states, psychology, mental health, play therapy, etc.) through the Institute for Continuing Education. The cost for these CEs will be included within your registration fees, so that **EVERYONE** will be able to receive the CE certificates that they need!

Look for our Winter newsletter for how you can **attend the conference for FREE!** We are able to offer two member and two student scholarships, as well as **FREE** attendance as a volunteer. We will also have a poster session, which will give you free attendance for one day for the senior author. So think about your research in play therapy or play therapy techniques that you have developed that you can present on! We want to encourage and support the use of play therapy research!!

This year NYAPT was able, as co-sponsors, to help two developing University play therapy certificate programs hold their conferences. Western Connecticut State University will be holding theirs on October 22-24 in Danbury and Long Island University/CW Post will be holding theirs on November 13<sup>th</sup>. It is the hope of NYAPT to be able to offer financial support each year to help build and develop certificate programs and training across the New York area. Go to the NYAPT website for full details about these upcoming trainings, as well as a listing of other University settings with certificate programs in play therapy in New York city and upstate.

#### **WELCOME:**

**New members:** Tara Keiden and Machel Singer!

#### **STUDENT AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVES:**

This year we have been able to add two graduate Student Affiliate Representatives to our Board: **Ashley Speno**, who will be helping to build play therapy through the Master's level students and **Mary Affee** who will help to build the doctoral level student membership, especially in the NYC area. Look for more information within this newsletter!

#### **ELECTIONS COMING UP:**

This will be my last year as President of NYAPT as my term of office will be ending, officially April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Annual NYAPT Conference in Albany. It will be an opportunity for Board Members to move up in positions as well as members to come join the Board! Please think about serving on the Board and let me know of your interest. All Board Members are required to have completed and/or graduated from the APT Leadership Academy or take the training once they are elected. NYAPT pays for the cost of the training, which is minimal. All training is conducted online via emails and through the APT website forum. It is a wonderful way to learn more about how APT functions, get to know other APT members from around the country as you dialogue together on the various areas discussed, and be able to serve on APT committees or the NYAPT Board! Please email me, [adrewes@hvc.rr.com](mailto:adrewes@hvc.rr.com), if you would like to serve on the Board!

Your President,  
Athena

**NYAPT WELCOMES STUDENT AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVES!**

*Mary L. Affee, LCSW, CTS, RPT, CFSW, CHC*  
[maryaffee@gmail.com](mailto:maryaffee@gmail.com)

Mary Affee is a licensed clinical social worker, an advanced certified trauma practitioner, and a registered play therapist. She is also a social work doctoral student at Adelphi University who returned to Long Island last year after spending time in North Carolina where she discovered and fell in love with play therapy. Her journey to pursue her PhD was driven by her love of play therapy and the magic healing she observed utilizing play therapy. She intends to develop and contribute to the research of healing and resiliency through play therapy. Mary has presented on play therapy locally and trauma both locally and nationally. She also received an "Award of Excellence" in 2014 from The National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children. Mary is passionate about play therapy and the promotion of play therapy. She has worked in public school for more than 8 years. Currently, she is working with children clinically in a community agency and in a private practice setting. She is also actively working towards her RPT-S.



*Ashley R. Speno*  
[ashley.rose25@yahoo.com](mailto:ashley.rose25@yahoo.com)

Ashley R. Speno is a graduate student at the Sage College's pursuing a dual masters in Community and Mental Health Psychology. Ashley acquired her B.S. from Marist College where she completed a one-year internship in the Emergency Psychiatric Unit at Saint Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York. She is currently partaking in a one-year internship at Ellis Outpatient Child and Adolescent Treatment Center in Schenectady, New York. After graduation she intends on becoming a licensed Mental Health Counselor, a licensed Play therapist and a licensed Family and Marriage therapist.

## THE BENEFITS OF BEING A STUDENT

By Ashley R. Speno, NYAPT Student Representative

If you are lucky enough to experience being a graduate student, you can relate to the wonderful venture. Graduation from undergrad, check. Acceptance to grad school, check. What do I want to do from here... check?... For me knowing that I wanted to work in mental health was easy, but narrowing down the exact field was a challenge. What age group do I want to work with? What type of practice? How do I specialize? Better yet, will I specialize? Going through graduate school, these types of questions continuously ran through my mind. I was not sure what I would be interested in or what I would be good at I never had the opportunity to experiment with in different areas. Life is a wonderful journey; for most people knowing exactly what you want to do with it doesn't happen over night. For people who have changed direction or specialty, taken a course that inspired you or those who just want to get a feel for different areas of mental health, I say take advantage of your time left as a student.

The benefit of being a student gives you the flexibility and ability to study different fields and get a feel for the different organizations associated with your degree. This is the time to get involved, to ask questions and learn the direction you want to start your voyage on. After graduation where do you want to end up? What population, group or practice are you interested in? The benefit of being a student is that these questions can be explored. One of the most beneficial aspects of being a student is the ability to join associations, attend trainings and visit organizations at a reduced cost. Last year when I was a student presenting my poster, I was lucky enough to attend the New York Association for Play Therapy (NYAPT) wonderful conference (which I will also add, included lunch and an ice cream social). In addition I was able to network and meet remarkable professionals who were excited to discuss their role in the field. The best part of all is that APT now offers **Free** e-Student Membership, and NYAPT allows students to attend their conferences as a volunteer or on scholarship for free! By joining the Association for Play Therapy you automatically become a member of the New York Association for Play Therapy as an affiliate when you pay the reduced fee of \$50 and receive additional benefits and discounts!

## FREE E-Student Membership Invitation from the Association for Play Therapy!

### Mental Health Graduate Student:

As a university mental health graduate student, you will enjoy:

- FREE** subscription to our quarterly Play Therapy magazine in digital format.
- FREE** subscription to our weekly APT Member Flash.
- FREE** access to the Members Only section of our website and its community forums, membership directory, publication archives, etc.

**At any time during your membership year, you can upgrade to our affiliate membership and receive the following items for only \$50!**

Key benefits:

- Membership with the local state branch including trainings, networking events and more!
- Access to the APT Member's Only section
- Member discounts on programs including conferences and credentialing
- Printed copies of *Play Therapy* magazine and International Journal of Play Therapy

AND:

You receive NYAPT newsletters four times a year along with discounts at our Annual conference.

If you have any membership questions at this time, do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Carter, Membership and Communications Coordinator at APT; [scarter@a4pt.org](mailto:scarter@a4pt.org), or myself, Ashley Speno, Student Representative for NYAPT; [ashley.rose25@yahoo.com](mailto:ashley.rose25@yahoo.com). Now is your time!

## NYAPT in Atlanta!



*...some good lookin' NYAPT members met for cocktails and conversation at the APT Conference in Atlanta last week! Looking forward to seeing more NYAPT'ers in Louisville, Kentucky next year!*

### Member Training News:

- **NYAPT 2016 Conference** will be held again at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, but on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2, 2016. We will be having **Dr. Linda Homeyer**, LPC-S, RPT-S present on sandtray across the ages and use with traumatized youth. We look forward to a wonderful training!
- Check out **Western Connecticut State University** for ongoing play therapy opportunities and their upcoming NYAPT Co-Sponsored conference Oct. 22 - 24, 2015: <http://www.wcsu.edu/education/playtherapy/conference/>. There are some FREE training slots available for this weekend to interested members.
- **Long Island University** is co-sponsoring with NYAPT for a training "First Annual Play Therapy Workshop: Examining Play Therapy from a Psychodynamic and Cognitive-Behavioral Lens: Their Clinical Applications to Children Exposed to Trauma", November 13, 2015, 8am-2pm, lunch included. Fee: \$160 with play therapy and social work CEs. Presenters: Athena A. Drewes, PsyD, RPT-S and Neil Altman, PhD.
- **Ann Beckley Forest** and **Annie Monaco** are doing a Play Therapy workshop in Buffalo! 2015 Trauma Sensitive Play Therapy Workshops being held in Buffalo, NY in October and November of this year. Workshops include learning basics of play therapy as well as how to work with traumatized children who are struggling with dysregulation, dissociation, and other trauma symptoms. You can view the workshop by going to [www.annimonaco.com](http://www.annimonaco.com). Or you can contact Annie Monaco at [annimonacolcsw@gmail.com](mailto:annimonacolcsw@gmail.com).
- Nearby **New Jersey City University** has a Play Therapy Certification program and is hosting a workshop "Group Play Therapy: Application at School and Community Setting" with Dr. Dee Ray November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 9am to 4pm at New Jersey City University. For more information (including discounted registration until November 1<sup>st</sup>), check out the website: <http://www.njcu.edu/ptw/>
- Check out The Advanced Certificate Program in Play Therapy at **Brooklyn College**. NEW fast-track one-year option beginning Summer Session I May 27<sup>th</sup> 2015. For more information: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/centers/childadult/projects/play.php>[http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/courses/acad/program\\_info.jsp?major=553&div=G&dept\\_code=33&dept\\_id=526#553](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/courses/acad/program_info.jsp?major=553&div=G&dept_code=33&dept_id=526#553)

**Connect to NYAPT!**

*NYAPT Communications works on connections to members, social networking, the newsletter, soliciting discussions and interactions, and sharing information with members. If you are interested in submitting training information, an article, news, or words of wisdom please contact [JillianEKelly@gmail.com](mailto:JillianEKelly@gmail.com)*



Check out our website at: <http://www.newyorkapt.info/>

Check out the Association for Play Therapy at: <http://www.a4pt.org/>



Like us on Facebook: New York Association for Play Therapy (NYAPT)

Or link to: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-York-Association-for-Play-Therapy-NYAPT/188037501208101>



Follow us on Twitter: @NYA4PT

Or link to: <http://twitter.com/#!/NYA4PT>



Connect to us on Linked In: NY APT

Or link to: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/ny-apt/2a/14b/520>

**And... you can learn from home!**

**Audio courses****Book tests****Journal tests**

Visit the webpage below and explore the options:

<http://www.a4pt.org/ps.training.cfm?ID=1638>