

AUTUMN / WINTER

NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

Athena A. Drewes, PsyD, RPT-S



I wish you all a very happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with lots of love, happiness and good health!

We end 2013 with many wonderful NYAPT blessings and events having occurred! We had a wonderful and financially successful conference with Scott Riviere through the hard work of our Buffalo Conference Committee, obtained our Gold Branch status, welcomed new members and new RPT's and RPT-S', had local trainings in New York City and Poughkeepsie, as well as Oswego and Rochester. We are growing play therapy!!! And in 2014 we have lots to look forward to with another great conference in 2014 with Dr. Eliana Gil.

We had difficulties, unfortunately, with Acteva, the company who was processing our registration fees in 2012 and the past. They did not submit final payments of \$4,262.57 owed us for registrations, causing us to lose this amount. Luckily our treasury was robust and we absorbed the losses. I contacted the Better Business Bureau of California and the California State Attorney General's office, and lodged complaints against Acteva. The Board decided not to pursue legal action as it would probably cost us more than the money owed to hire a lawyer in California with minimal results. Unfortunately, several other APT State Branches also lost substantial amounts of money from Acteva who were handling their conferences too.

The good news is that Acteva personally called me about two months ago, spoke over a half hour about their situation, and have followed up with an email confirming they will be paying us the monies owed in \$150 monthly increments with 5% interest on the total due beginning in January. They state "We are putting all of our energies on a recovery plan that generates enough capital/cash flow to repay organizers in a 'reasonable' time frame." Increased payments are expected over time. In return, once payments begin to be received, I will contact the Better Business Bureau and State Attorney General's office to inform them of Acteva's good faith gesture. Once all payments are received, NYAPT will notify the BB and AG offices of full payment. So we may, after all, recoup all monies owed!!

In the meantime, we continue to use PayPal and you can go to our newly updated and modernized website (thanks to webmaster Ken Petersen) to register for our 2014 conference right on line. We have already received several registrations to date!!!

This will be one of the last large venue conferences that Dr. Eliana Gil will be giving. Here is what she recently wrote on line, and has told me personally and at APT's 2013 conference:

"Hello friends and colleagues: Approximately six months ago I came home after a long day and said to my husband, "I think I've heard one too many sad story!" I very much believe in honoring these important insights and recognizing when I am feeling depleted. As I reflected on this issue, clarity ensued and I proceeded to the next step, taking action.

I made the decision to bring my clinical work to a conclusion by end of year. I feel proud of my contributions to many individual children and adults who were struggling and in pain when I shared their path for a brief time. I am ecstatic that some of these youngsters stayed in touch as they became adults...some even brought their children to see me much later. Their trust and confidence in me has been gratifying and humbling.

The second decision I made is to stop traveling for trainings and workshops. I am pretty sure that I have provided trainings at almost every APT across the United States and I have made long-lasting friends, had warmth and friendship offered in visible ways, and have felt nurtured by audience responses. It is wonderful and serendipity that people like my trainings as much as I like sharing information. I will carry this loving receptivity and excitement with me wherever I go.

And finally, what I hope to do: I love teaching, supervising, training, and consulting. I will continue these activities. My trainings will take a new shape: I will conduct an annual conference in the DC Metropolitan Area in April every year, focused on play therapy and trauma treatment. This year, April 4-6 is our second annual training. Aside from that, I will do small, intimate trainings with 10-12 people at a time. As much as I love large audiences, I love the intimacy and potential for experiential work and processing in small audiences best! I will also explore putting on webinars and stay connected in that way. I will, of course, meet all my obligations for 2014, will not accept new invites, and will do the two 2015 conferences already scheduled in New Orleans and Wyoming.

Thank you for allowing me to share the news in this format and I so appreciate the love and friendship readily available in the Playborhood!!

Best to you all, Eliana

So do NOT MISS OUT ON A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!!! Attend our March 28-29, 2014 NYAPT Conference with Eliana Gil by registering as soon as possible on our website! And spread the word to colleagues and friends, who will otherwise miss out in hearing Eliana's wonderful training information! If you would like to attend the 2014 conference for FREE, here are the options!!

- Become a volunteer!

NYAPT has a limited number of volunteer positions available. Duties of the volunteer include helping out at registration, during our annual meeting and lunchtimes with raffle tickets, and during workshops to assist the workshop presenter, in checking entry tickets and giving out and collecting feedback forms.

- Student Scholarships

Next, we have *two* student scholarships for two-day attendance at the conference. These scholarships require the applicant to be enrolled full or part-time in an educational program, and submit a copy of an active student ID.

- NYAPT Member Scholarships

There are *two* NYAPT member scholarships for attending both conference days. Recognizing finances are tight for everyone, members can apply for their registration fee to be waived. You must be an NYAPT member to qualify.

Scholarships only cover registration for the conference. They do not cover hotel, transportation, or other related expenses. The scholarship is not transferable and can only be used by the individual selected.

If you are interested in applying for the scholarship, please fill out the application and return your application via email to Athena Drewes, adrewes@hvc.rr.com, by February 15th. Applications will be reviewed and winners chosen from all applications received. The scholarship winners will be notified by March 1st. The registration form is attached if you would like to obtain a scholarship or be a volunteer!

Gold Branch:

We need your help in order to maintain our status as Gold Branch. The major help is in getting new members to join! So please hand out brochures, encourage friends and colleagues to join, so they can get the discount rate at our annual conference, along with all the other great benefits! For each brochure that you put your name down as 'sponsor', you receive \$10 APT Bucks for a full member and \$5 APT Bucks for Affiliate members. You can use these certificates to lessen your annual membership fee or conference fee at the national APT conference (as well as in their book store)!

Welcome New Members: Malka Plotsker; Jennifer Anne Frank; Jahleh Mohammadi; Shira Koenigsberg.
Welcome to NYAPT!

I wish you all a wonderful New Year! And I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming State Conference in Buffalo!

Athena
President

NYAPT 2014 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP FORM

The purpose of the New York Association for Play Therapy scholarships is to provide the opportunity to current NYAPT individual members and students who, due to financial restrictions, would otherwise be unable to attend the annual NYAPT conference without support.

*NYAPT Scholarships offer the recipient a complimentary 2 day conference registration, March 28-29, 2014 with Dr. Eliana Gil. Awards are based on financial need, contributions to the field of play therapy, and potential to give back to the field. NYAPT members are given preference. Two Member and Two Student Scholarships are awarded to cover part or all of the base conference fee and do **not** include room and board or transportation. The scholarship recipient is responsible for securing their own travel, lodging and incidental expenses.*

Application Procedure: E-mail applications are preferred as a more sustainable option than mailing paper copies. Copy and paste the application below into Word as a new document, complete the form, and submit as an attachment. Send the completed application to adrewes@hvc.rr.com. Paper applications may be mailed to: Athena Drewes upon request. **The deadline for receipt of the application is February 15, 2014.** Selections will be made after reviewing all applications received. Scholarship applicants will be **notified of our decision by March 1, 2014.**

Scholarships are not transferable. Scholarship recipients must notify NYAPT if they cannot attend.

1. Name: _____
 2. Phone (day): _____ Phone (evening): _____
 3. Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

4. Email _____

5. Are you a current member of NYAPT? Yes _____ No _____

6. Have you previously received an NYAPT conference scholarship, and if so, which years? _____

7. Are you a student? _____ full time (12-15 hours) _____ part time _____
 (Submit a photo copy of your current school year ID with application.)

8. Please describe your current or past NYAPT activities and contributions:

9. Financial Need (Please list all figures in US dollars):

a. Sources for funding for conference attendance:

Employer _____ Out of pocket _____ Other, please specify _____

b. Assistance Needed (Check all that apply):

____ Complete Registration Fee comp

____ Partial Registration Fee comp

____ Serving as a Volunteer, with registration fee waived

____ Having registration waived but not serving as a volunteer

c. What else should we know about your Financial Situation?

10. On a separate page, please provide the review committee with the following information: Please write a statement, no longer than 500 words total **including all three** items below:

why do you wish to attend this conference?

how do you plan to use what you learn to promote play therapy in your work and community settings?

what significance would the conference have for your personal and professional objectives?

I understand and accept the above requirements.

Signature _____ Date _____

Scholarship applications must be received by February 15, 2014.

Return Application to: adrewes@hvc.rr.com. You will receive a reply e-mail to let you know your application has been received. All scholarship applicants will be notified of decision regarding their scholarship application by March 1, 2014.

Finding Time for Play (Therapy)

By: Megan Meaney (Student Representative)

Whether you are in your first years of college, experiencing the fun times of dorm life and college food, or wracking up the loans while you pursue a graduate or doctorates degree in a field you love, chances are you find yourself running around, never stopping to take a breather. It gets extremely difficult trying to find time for play. Although I would love to make time for learning new play therapy techniques and to implement them in my life, it seems impossible with the amount of things I am currently juggling. Up until a few months ago, I would always make the excuse that "when I get into the field, then I will run after my love for play therapy".

One day, however, I was standing amongst a room of 15 three year olds running and screaming their heads off, a typical three year old classroom. (I had been working a day care job to help support my professional schooling.) It was in that moment that I asked myself, "why am I here?" Through the mundane, repetitiveness of life, I had forgotten the love and passion I had for these kids and the reason why I had chose to work at a daycare during my undergraduate and part of my graduate schooling. I genuinely loved children! However, I was worn out by these kids and was only looking towards when I would be leaving this job for the next, more career focused, social work job. But, why couldn't I start now? I mean, there is no time like the present, right? If you are interested in play therapy, chances are you are around children sometime during your week. That means that we have numerous chances in our lives to practice and master play therapy techniques with the children around us!

Once I started looking at my job as an opportunity to practice and grow as a play therapist, I began to enjoy my job more and look at it as a chance to reach these young children. My life doesn't start years down the road when I get my dream job; my life starts now!

I encourage all students out there: Look for the opportunities in your life where you can start to use the techniques you have begun to learn in your schooling. Whether you are babysitting, teaching an after school program, or simply hanging with your own children at home, incorporate play therapy into your life so that when life brings you that dream job, you can be better prepared and encouraged to go and change the lives of children everywhere.

Be sure to like NYAPT on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to get an update on conferences and to get new ideas for practice with our Technique of the Week! This will give you a chance to absorb new ideas used by professional play therapy and to gather more ways to incorporate play therapy in your every day life.

About Megan: Megan Meaney is the new student rep for NYAPT. She is currently getting her Masters in Social Work at Roberts Wesleyan College. If you have any questions or ideas for ways to get involved, please feel free to contact Megan via email, meaney_megan@roberts.edu.

Training News: Check your E-Blasts and our website for ongoing training news!

Working with Metaphor and *Working with Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors: An integrated Play Therapy Approach in play Therapy Practice* with Eliana Gil, PhD, RPT-S, ATR at Ramada Amherst Conference Center on Friday, March 28th & Saturday, March 29th. See the **attached brochure** for more information and registration through PAYPAL!

Supervision News:

Hi Everyone! My name is David Schatzkamer and I am a licensed mental health counselor and play therapist (soon to be RPT!). I am attempting to organize a FREE peer supervision group for psychotherapists who are interested in receiving support from other practicing clinicians in a comfortable and confidential environment. This peer supervision group is for those clinicians who are working with children and using play therapy in their practice. I am thinking to have a monthly play therapy peer supervision group that will be able to meet for two hours once or twice a month. This will be enough time to dig deep into whatever the topic or questions are, but not too long. I am thinking of having a meeting place in New York City or Brooklyn NY. For more information, please email dschatzkamer@aol.com

I, Dr. Shana Beran, recently attended a play therapy conference at Western CT State University, hosted by Dr. Gabriel Lomas, and was inspired to start a peer supervision play therapy group. Play therapy is a wonderful modality when working with child patients, but can be extremely complex, and we can all benefit from each others' perspectives. Together with Dr. Lomas, we are looking for clinicians in the N. Westchester/Putnam/Dutchess/Fairfield county areas that might be interested in a peer supervision group. We would like to invite practicing clinicians who work with children and would be able to meet once or twice a month for peer supervision to join us. It could be done for free at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury CT, or at another location in the Westchester area (my office in Carmel, NY may be available). Please let us know if this would be of interest to anyone, and the days and times that you are available to meet. If you are interested, please contact us at: beranpsyd@gmail.com or lomasg@wcsu.edu

Office Space:

GRAND CENTRAL/ EAST 43RD STREET/TUDOR CITY

Brand new, freshly renovated, psychotherapy office space

Lovely, quiet, windowed offices – face Tudor City Park & East River

Double sheet rock soundproofing

2 offices remaining in 4 office suite – each approx 130 SF

Separate play-therapy/group room/neuropsych testing room available in suite

Restroom in suite

Convenient to Grand Central & all subways & buses

Ground Floor, private entrance, Luxury Doorman landmarked building

Congenial & considerate suite mates

Wi-Fi /A/C, Internet, water cooler, fridge, microwave & keurig coffee

Reasonable rent. Long term lease available. **Share possible**

Available immediately

Please email: mdermer@optonline.net or call 212-946-1091

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 partaking in these activities, contact Jillian Kelly at JillianEKelly@gmail.com



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

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



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Visit the webpage below and explore the options:

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