Newsletter 1, January 2012

Dear colleagues,

for the New Year I wish each of you health, joy and fulfillment in both your private and professional lives.

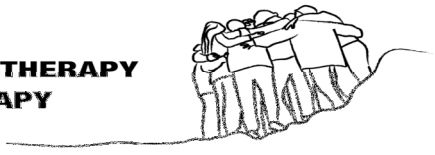
In this newsletter, you will find information on the following subjects:

- ISBP Conference 2011: photos, participants' reports.
- ESBP Meeting in Bruges 2012/ ISBP Conference 2013/ EAP conference 2012
- Recognition: new Teaching Fellows/ Martien Kooyman
- In Memoriam
- More News

ARGENTINA 2011

E-motion, what moves us?

18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BONDING PSYCHOTHERAPY
1st ARGENTINE ENCOUNTER OF BONDING PSYCHOTHERAPY



When you attend a professional conference, what are your favorite moments? I have asked participants of the International Conference for Bonding Psychotherapy in Buenos Aires for their impressions of the conference, some of which you can read about below.

IRENAIKA
ENTRADA

Here is my report

It was a colorful, exciting conference, with about 100 participants and presenters. In

all, about 20 participants came from outside Argentina (Europe and the USA). It was also in many ways an historic event for the ISBP. The conference was the first international meeting to take place outside of the USA or Europe. It marked the official entry of the Argentine Association for Bonding Psychotherapy into the ISBP. The Credentials Committee interviewed and accepted two new Teaching Fellows, as well as six new Fellows of the Argentine Chapter.

The theme of the conference was *Emotions, what moves us*. I enjoyed and profited from many presentations (both of Godehard's papers, Ramon's opening movement group, Ginny's workshop on developmental levels, just to name a few); but the real highlights (what moved me) came with the personal encounters and sharing, the times between the presentations and in the evening. I felt moved and thankful to have the honor of presenting Martien with an award recognizing his lifetime contributions to ISBP at the Saturday night banquet.

I enjoyed learning from Alejandro how to prepare and drink mate tea in the traditional manor (you drink the gourd container until it is finished, then refill it and give it to the next person in your circle). Both Julia and I were delighted to see so many young folks growing through the bonding work, and we especially appreciated getting to know Nicolas, Daniela and their lovely, wild hearted child Geronimo. In addition, the fun time we spent in Buenos Aires after the conference with our American and European colleagues was special, where bonds of friendship got renewed.

Ginny's report

Ginny Hurney sent this report, which gives a nice overview of the program:

Fun, excitement, high energy best describe the ISBP Conference in Argentina. Upon our arrival, Paul Komatinsky, Michael Hurney and I were warmly greeted with hugs and hellos from familiar and new faces.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Ramon from Argentina, and Bogdan from Slovenia for their Teaching Fellow status and found them both delightful, well qualified and dedicated to promoting BP. There were six Argentinian Fellow candidates, young enthusiastic and were all accepted as Fellows.

The Conference opened on Friday with a live band and group of singers performing "I want a Hug"-a rousing beginning and tribute to Dan Casriel. Jeff Gordon, Ramon Vega and Martien Kooyman gave the Welcome and Introduction of the

Program. Godehard Stadtmueller, was the keynote speaker addressing the "Biology of Emotions".

After lunch I presented a talk on Basic Emotions. Since I had no Power Point slides, (my memory stick didn't work with any of the computers), the didactic piece was hard to follow. I decided to go into the second part, "The Four Developmental Levels of Anger/Power", an experiential exercise developed by Skip and Marilyn Ellis. I was pleasantly surprised as I watched an audience of 80-90 people jumping into the exercise with full enthusiasm, no holding back and loving it. After this experience I understood what I had been told about the Argentine Community- they are incredibly enthusiastic, open to expressing their emotions and highly energetic.

Friday night there was a social hour before our 9 PM dinner. We were entertained by 2 Folk Dancers and some of the participants who performed a folk dance, and an Argentinean singer and guitar player. Michael Hurney, assisted by Ginny, sang some American pop songs and led a group sing along.

Saturday's Social was a Banquet with an array of Argentine meats, wine and the highlight, 2 pairs of Tango Dancers accompanied by a live tango band.

Martin Kooyman, who organized the Conference with Ramon and who is responsible for supporting Ramon in building a very active dynamic BP Community, was honored for his many contributions to BP.

Ramon and his wife, Doris, presented workshops where we got to experience their skills in leading large groups in body movement and voice expression. They are masters at bringing a group to emotional release through their unique style.

The comradery, fun and warmth of the Bonding Psychotherapy community is always the highlight of these conferences.

I look forward to the ESBP Conference in Sweden, June, 2012. (N.b. the date and location have been changed to Bruges, October 2012)

Report of Nicolas Maure (Argentina)

To be present in the last International Conference for Bonding Psychotherapy was an extraordinary experience for me. I felt the emotional intensity and happiness equivalent to having made a weekend bonding group. I had many nutritious and much learning experiences, that helped me as a person and professional.
Next, I'll express some items about what I've founded most valuable:

I had the chance to meet amazing people, bonding psychotherapists of many places in the world, inspiring and integrity people. People who knew Dan Casriel and have been developing the Bonding Psychotherapy (theory and practice) for many years!

Those moments of sharing experiences, talking about who is each one and how you practice, feels and lives the Bonding Psychotherapy were very valuable to me. I remember with much pleasure the first night at dinner (a few days before the Conference starts), when I met Jeff, Julia, Moniek, Godehard … and came up a meeting where we share our experiences. That was a very special moment...

Personally, I lived something very important: I had the opportunity to be accepted as a Fellow of the ISBP. Being part of the ISBP is something I've never imagined, and it has for me a great value. The interview was also a unique moment. I was deeply touched by the kindness of the three people who were there, I felted understood, accepted and valued. I've also learned so much. The connection (bonding) with Godehard and Julia still echoes in me.

Once the conference began, I felt that time was too fast. There were many activities and I wanted to be in every one. All the papers looked very good, I've enjoyed every one in which I could stay. I also really liked the experiential workshops, they helped me get closer to people who don't know very much... although about saturday afternoon I felt exhausted (my wife and me had double work with the Conference and Gerónimo!!).
Finally -as a personal opinion and conclusion- I just want to highlight these moments of meeting and sharing. Perhaps could be consider the possibility of fewer papers and more space to share, where everyone can talk about his work, the difficulties and which new resources are being used effectively in therapy, perhaps discuss a clinical case, etc. Give it a more formal context to that which occurred naturally in free time, like the days before the Conference.
Well, I really hope to meet and hug all of you in the next Conference, although it's very difficult for me right now ... but who knows (*why not?!*). I send a big hug from Argentina to all the people of the ISBP, with love,

Michael's Report

Michael gave this report, telegraph style.
Of course, a picture is worth a thousand words (see the photo below):

Here's my rating of the Argentine conference:

conference overall: great, but could have used 2 extra days.

location: great

talks: very good

workshops: great

facility: fair

food: fair

entertainment: great

Host and hostess: great

BP people: great; especially the Argentines

Would I go back to Argentina? yes/in a New York second

Someone asked me what it was like in Argentina and I just showed them the picture that Ramon sent me titled Argentina con Amor.

Hugs to all,

I wonder why Michael likes these international conferences.

ESBP CONFERENCE in 2012

As we informed our members some time ago, the ESBP conference that was planned to happen in Sweden in June had to be canceled. The new date is **the 5th to the 7th of October,** and we will be meeting in the beautiful Belgium city of **Bruges. Plan to arrive by 12 on Friday; we should finish with lunch on Sunday**. We have decided to make this ESBP meeting a working meeting, so come prepared to work. The exact agenda will be sent out soon, but the major theme of this working meeting is to develop a European Training Center that is in alignment with the credentialing process of the European Association for Psychotherapy. Our US and Argentine members are welcome, and I encouraged them to attend.

ISBP Conference in 2013 and a call for presentations

Save the date: the next International Conference will take place from the **7th to the 9th of June, 2013**. The venue will also be **Bruges**.
The theme of the conference:

"Attachment and the Essence of Relationship -
The Strength of Bonding Psychotherapy"

Keep this date free; this is a conference that you don't want to miss.

European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP) conference in 2012

From **the 4th to the 7th of July 2012**, the Valencian Congress Hall (Spain) will host the XVIII European Congress of Psychotherapy: improving mental health and emotional wellbeing in Europe. The conference theme states a fact:
"There is no Health without Mental Health"
(http://www.congresoeuropeopsicoterapia2012.eu/eng/index.html)

Recognition of members

New Teaching Fellows

The Credentials Committee interviewed and gladly accepted two new Teaching Fellows. Both of these men are pioneers, in that they have worked to establish Bonding Psychotherapy in their respective countries:

Bogdan Polajner, Slovenia
bogdan.polajner@zbps.si

Ramon Vega, Argentina
ramonvega@abrazoprimario.com.ar

Congratulations to both of you, and I wish you continued success in bringing the benefits of Bonding Psychotherapy to your home cultures.

Martien Kooyman receives recognition

At the International Conference in Argentina (2011), Martien Kooyman (Teaching Fellow) received the Daniel Casriel Award for life time service to the ISBP. Martien is co-founder of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities and of the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities of which he is one of the honorary vice-presidents. He was one of the very first students of Dan Casriel, and he has continually helped the spread and development of Bonding Psychotherapy, especially in Holland, Italy, and, most recently, in Argentina, the first chapter to be founded in South America. Congratulations Martien, and many thanks for your great service

In Memoriam

Within the last months, our society has suffered the sad loss of two important and wonderfully loveable colleagues, both of them pioneers and developers of Bonding Psychotherapy in Europe. *(The following texts were adapted from letters of remembrance written by Martien Kooyman.)*

Peter Geerlings (1939-2011)

Peter Geerlings died in his home on Tuesday September 20th.
He was one of the first generation of bonding psychotherapists trained by Daniel Casriel. He underlined the importance of a scientific base for our therapy and was for many years a member of the International Credentials Committee of the ISBP. In 2010 he was a member of the committee which succeeded in receiving the recognition of bonding psychotherapy from the European Association of Psychotherapy.

Together with Juul de Klerk, Peter wrote the first paper on bonding psychotherapy in a Dutch Scientific Journal on Psychotherapy. Together they have been leading bonding groups for many years in the day clinic of the psychiatric Department of the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam.

I had the honor to present, a few weeks before his death, the award from the ISBP for his contribution in the development of Bonding Psychotherapy. We had a small ceremony in Peter's house. His wife, his daughters and other family members were present. Peter was clearly moved to receive the award as a sign of the significance of his contributions.

We shall miss Peter's company, his friendliness, his smile, his humor and his critical remarks. We all shall remember him as a reliable and wise colleague who reminded us many times that Bonding Psychotherapy has to be a professional treatment method.

Ingemar Arn (1937-2012)

Ingemar Arn died on January 2012. With him we lost one of the pioneers of bonding psychotherapy. He was trained by Daniel Casriel as one of the first generation of bonding therapists. He himself trained many therapists of the second generation and was involved in the start of the training of the third generation.

In Sweden Ingemar invited Dan Casriel to give training workshops in Stockholm. He founded in Sweden the first national society of Bonding Psychotherapy in Europe and became its first president. Johan Maertens and Magda Baukeland met Dan Casriel and Ingemar during a world conference on therapeutic communities in Rome in 1979. They invited Ingemar to lead the training in bonding therapy in Belgium.

In 1984 Ingemar joined me to give training workshops in Italy for many years, first in Rome later in Belluno. He also went to Argentina to give workshops for a new generation of bonding psychotherapists.

Ingemar was a great therapist, a good friend and colleague. He had been looking forward to leading more workshops in Italy, Belgium, Slovenia and Argentina. It is hard to realize that this will not happen. We shall miss his company his songs, his laughs.

Ingemar will be buried some weeks after his death on February 17th.

More news

Update on George Rynick (TF USA): As many of you know, George underwent serious heart surgery over a year ago. I talk regularly with George, and he is glad to report that, with the exception of some periodic setbacks, he is feeling better and stronger every day. You can contact George through his email address: headhugger@aol.com, I am sure that he will be glad to hear from you.

Articles about Bonding Psychotherapy published:

Bondingtherapie een effectieve therapie bij hechtingsproblemen from Martien Kooyman, Rob Olij and Rob Storm has been published in a journal for group psychotherapy, "Groepen"-June 2011-Year 6, number 2. Martien will make an English version of this article available at a later date.

The article *Biological correlates of emotion* from Godehard Stadtmüller and Jeff Gordon has been published in the EAP's International Journal of Psychotherapy.
Here is the exact reference:
Stadtmüller, G. & Gordon, J.A. (20011) *Biological correlates of emotion,* International Journal of Psychotherapy: Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 6-24: ISSN 1356-9082.
For a pdf copy of this article, send an email to Moniek at the International Office.
Moniek Van Deile *moniek@bondingpsychotherapy.org*

ISBP committees reconstituted:

The ISBP Board has elected Inger Johansson (TF Sweden) to be Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, and Domingos Neto (TF Portugal) to head the Ethics Committee. Inger has named Godehard (TF Germany) to join her on the Credentials Committee and will appoint a third member soon. Domingos has called Paul Komatinsky (TF USA) and Bogdan Polajner (TF Slovenia) to join him on the Ethics Committee. A big thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve our organization.

In closing:

I hope that this newsletter serves your needs to stay informed and involved in our organization. Please do let me know how you liked it, and feel free to contact me directly if you have questions or suggestions for our organization and for the next newsletter.

Best wishes,

Jeff

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