



# vapt eNote

## October 2009



Dear VAPT Playmates,  
Happy Autumn in Virginia! I hope you are enjoying the crisp mornings and sunny afternoons this season affords us. Great weather for **PLAYING**, don't you think?



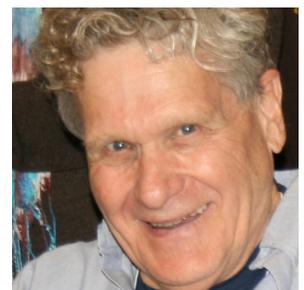
Over 30 VAPT members decided to have a play date away from home and headed to **Atlanta** to learn together at the **International Association for Play Therapy** conference. You may view photos of VAPT members at the conference at <http://picasaweb.google.com/vaptplay/October2009APTAtlanta#>

The album contains photographs of presentations by VAPT members **Megan Fiore** and **Danielle Budash** (Children in Military Families) and **Lennie Echterling** and **Anne Stewart** (Improv and Supervision). **Eliana Gil** can be seen offering her personal story about the power of play in her life to the general session. **Eliana** is also shown receiving the APT **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD!** Way to go, Eliana! **Eliana Gil** and **Kathrin Hartmann** also conducted workshops at the conference!

In the photo album, you will see **Sheri Mitschelen** receiving her 2009 Leadership Academy diploma. VAPT also graduated **Jessica Umhoefer** and **Cathi Spooner** in the 2009 APT Leadership Academy! In addition, there are photos of VAPT receiving a **Gold Branch Award** (VAPT has only missed receiving this award one time—for having ONE too few members ☺.) VAPT member, Anne Stewart had the honor of serving as the emcee for the APT Awards and Recognition Ceremony.

You can also view the **APT Foundation Raffle Baskets**. This was a fundraiser to support outreach and research efforts by APT. The event will be held next year, too. Our VAPT basket theme was VIRGINIA MADE DELIGHTS. Some of the contents along with the artists who created them can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/vaptplay/May2009VAPTAPTFoundationRaffleBasket#> (VAPT member, Anne Stewart is the Vice President of the APT Foundation). Mary Alice Wentling, from the Illinois APT, was our basket winner. She sent an email saying, "I just sent you a thank you card for the fabulous basket and goodies. Winning was really overwhelming as it was quite a surprise. I thank you for taking care of the membership."

We brought an international guest back to Virginia from the APT conference. **Dr. Shlomo Ariel**, founder and president of the **Israeli Association for Play Therapy** spent a week meeting with students and faculty at James Madison University and offered an all day workshop on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was co-sponsored by VAPT and Central Valley Counselor's Association (a Virginia Counselor's Association chapter). Over forty professionals and students, many new to play therapy, came to learn about Dr. Ariel's model and techniques of Integrative Play Therapy. Thank you, Shlomo! You may view photos of the week's events at <http://picasaweb.google.com/vaptplay/October2009VAPTJMUHostsDrShlomoAriel#>



**NEWS FLASH!** APT just posted their 'official' conference photos on SMUG MUG. There are some great photos of Eliana Gil, Lennie Echterling, Sheri Mitschelen, and Anne Stewart on the site. The photos definitely capture the fun of APT conference going! Check it out at <http://a4pt.smugmug.com/> (for viewing and purchase).



Welcome new and returning VAPT members!! Thank you for your support and commitment to the well-being of children and families. Contact me to let me know how VAPT may support your work and play. [stewaral@jmu.edu](mailto:stewaral@jmu.edu) and 540 568 6601.

### 1. Have you told APT what trainings you would like to have for APT 2010?

Whether or not you attended the 2009 APT Atlanta Conference, please complete the [Post-Conference Survey](#) at the APT site [www.a4pt.org](http://www.a4pt.org) by **October 23** and help determine the 2010 conference offerings!

### 2. Do you know your VAPT Chapter Chair?

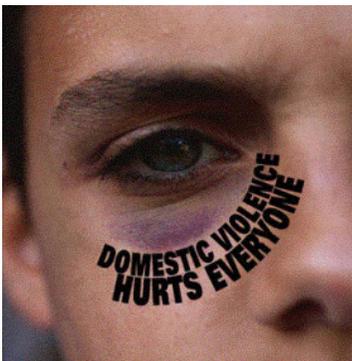
VAPT relies on chapter chairs to build our network of highly trained play therapists across the state. These volunteers are listed below. Please connect with a chapter near you AND let me know if you would like to begin chapter meetings in your area! Some chapters have begun to offer continuing education from VAPT Approved Provider for APT hours.

The chapter chairs help organize and conduct periodic meetings of VAPT members in the area, help introduce potential new members to play therapy and our organization, and offer feedback and guidance to determine the activities that are responsive to their area's needs and the state programs and events. The VAPT Chapter Chairs are:

Roanoke	Stephanie Pratola	<a href="mailto:pratola@pratola.com">pratola@pratola.com</a>
Lynchburg-ish	Norma White	<a href="mailto:norma.white@couplesandkids.com">norma.white@couplesandkids.com</a>
Central Virginia	Amy Kale Frait	<a href="mailto:amyfrait@gmail.com">amyfrait@gmail.com</a>
Northern Virginia	Joyce Meagher	<a href="mailto:kdknzlr@comcast.net">kdknzlr@comcast.net</a>
	Cathi Spooner	<a href="mailto:cathispooner@hotmail.com">cathispooner@hotmail.com</a>
	Sheri Mitschelen	<a href="mailto:shmitsch@cox.net">shmitsch@cox.net</a>
Tidewater	Kathrin Hartmann	<a href="mailto:HartmaK@EVMS.EDU">HartmaK@EVMS.EDU</a>
Richmond	Barbara J. Smith	<a href="mailto:bjsmith461@aol.com">bjsmith461@aol.com</a>
Southwest	Suzanne Sanford	<a href="mailto:playtherapyworks@msn.com">playtherapyworks@msn.com</a>

## GREAT WORK VAPT CHAPTER CHAIRS! Thank you!

### 3. Did you know? October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Every year more than 3.3 million children are exposed to domestic violence. Domestic violence incidents affect every person within a home and can have long-lasting negative effects on children's social, emotional, and academic functioning

The Family Violence Prevention Fund created a very helpful training module, available at no charge, entitled, Connect: Supporting Children Exposed to Domestic Violence - In-service Training for Resource Families, a Trainer's Guide & Tools. You can find the materials at:

<<http://endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1314/>>

Connect is a three hour training with a thorough curriculum document, Power Point presentation and related tools intended for use in child welfare settings with foster parents, kin caregivers, and adoptive parents with all levels of experience in caring for children who have been exposed to domestic violence, or who may have cause to care for these children in the future. Connect is designed as a basic training session on the dynamics of domestic violence, the impact of exposure to domestic violence on children, and strategies for supporting children who have been exposed to violence.

Free copies of the CD can be ordered by emailing - [childrensteam@endabuse.org](mailto:childrensteam@endabuse.org)  
You may also go to the website: <http://endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1314/>

The website also offers compelling and realistic videos for use in trainings and **mini-magazines** for foster parents, kin caregivers, and adoptive parents on this important and sensitive topic:

- Connect: helping caregivers talk to kids about violence against women ([Issue 1 PDF](#))
- Connect: helping caregivers talk to kids about violence against women ([Issue 2 PDF](#))
- Connect: helping caregivers talk to kids about violence against women ([Spanish Issue 1 PDF](#))
- Connect: helping caregivers talk to kids about violence against women ([Spanish Issue 2 PDF](#))

#### **4. Can you Picture a World without Violence?**

The Family Violence Prevention Fund site offers information about violence related to teens, immigrant women and their children, global violence prevention projects and many other topics and populations. The webpage with information for immigrant women includes:

- **Multilingual brochures**
- **Culture Handbook**
- **Immigrant Women and Domestic Violence Fact Sheet**

The URL for this well-developed webpage is: [http://endabuse.org/section/programs/immigrant\\_women](http://endabuse.org/section/programs/immigrant_women)

#### **5. Have you visited the National Child Traumatic Stress Network website this month?**

[http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn/nav.do?pid=ctr\\_aware\\_dv#q1](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn/nav.do?pid=ctr_aware_dv#q1)



In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) is offering resources to educate parents and families, educators, professionals, and policy makers about domestic violence. The site has factsheets, videos, and website links.

#### **6. Did you know that 50% of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children?**

The National Center for Children Exposed to Violence is an excellent organization to consult at <http://www.ncccev.org/>. Their webpage for Children and Violence - <http://www.ncccev.org/violence/index.html> - offers excellent websites, statistics, reports, books and journal articles in the areas of media violence, school violence, catastrophic events, community violence and domestic violence.

#### **7. Did you know 30, 434 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelter or transitional housing and there were 8.927 unmet requests for services in one day?**

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month Project is a comprehensive website that includes the Presidential proclamation of the month and many resources tailored for women from differing cultures and faiths and for women with disabilities. The site includes factsheets, handouts, video and graphic resources. See <http://dvam.vawnet.org/materials/index.php> and <http://dvam.vawnet.org/materials/samples.php>

## 8. Have you started planning? - APT 2010 Proposals Wanted

Attend the next international APT conference in 2010 at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY, October 12-17 and please consider submitting a conference proposal!

### Ready to submit a proposal?

APT seeks both new and established presenters who offer *new, unique, and cutting-edge* topics at our Annual Conferences. If you wish to present, you are invited to submit your 2010 ***Conference program proposals*** by **Nov. 30**. You are encouraged to submit proposals to your discipline specific professional organization at the state and national level (ex, ACA, VCA, NASP, APA, VPA).

## 9. Is play in peril?

Some interesting news from our colleagues in psychology--See the American Psychological Association article PLAYTIME IN PERIL at <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2009/09/child-play.html>

Go forth and Have Fun!

Check out everyday fun at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lXh2noaPyw>

Playfully,  
Anne

540 568-6601

Virginia Association for Play Therapy website  
<http://vapt.cisat.jmu.edu>

