



**September 2011**



Dear VAPT Playmates,

I hope you are looking forward to enjoying the crisp and cool fall weather. I look forward to seeing many VAPT members in Sacramento next month for the international Association for Play Therapy conference. Be sure to check the message board at the conference to learn when we will get together for a hello and hugs.

VAPT has a great deal to celebrate at this conference. We will

- Graduate 2 APT Leadership Academy participants
  - Kathleen Levingston
  - Christen Pendleton
- Receive a Gold Branch award
- Enjoy presentations by VAPT members Eliana Gil, Bill Whelan, Jennifer Gilbert, and Anne Stewart

Playfully,  
Anne

### **1. Neuroscience and Play Therapy**

Neuroscience and play therapy is our professional development theme for upcoming conferences.

### **SAVE the DATE**

#### **Winter Workshop 2012**

#### **Neurobiologically Informed Play Therapy Interventions**

Presented by

**Dr. Richard Gaskill, LCP, LCPC, RPT-S**

January 27, 2012  
Richmond, Virginia

Rick is a ChildTrauma Academy Fellow with expertise in play therapy and therapeutic interventions with at-risk children and the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) in preschool settings.

He has worked in community mental health for over 30 years. He currently serves as the Clinical Director and Deputy Director of Sumner Mental Health Center in Wellington, KS. He served as the Center's Children's Services Director for over 20 years. In his work with children, Dr. Gaskill has developed numerous programs for children and parents; including child development classes, parenting classes, Child-Parent Relationship Training (Filial Therapy), Infant-Parent Relationship groups, attachment enhancement treatment groups, therapeutic alternative schools, therapeutic preschools, after school programs, and juvenile offender programs.

Dr. Gaskill is on adjunct faculty at Wichita State University, in Wichita, Kansas where he teaches play therapy classes, child psychopathology, and supervises play therapy practicum. He has

presented workshops on play therapy interventions and the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics applications throughout the US and Canada.

Dr. Gaskill was the first Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor in Kansas and was a founding board member of the Kansas Play Therapy Association Board, serving as President in 2004. He has also served on KSAPT and national APT committees for play therapy.

Co-hosted with the Richmond SCAN and Regent University Counseling Department and the James Madison University Department of Graduate Psychology.

**SAVE this DATE , too!**

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Come Play with Us!! Conference  
Healing Experiences with the Brain in Mind: Integrating Play Therapy,  
Art, Sand, and Clay**

Presented by

**Dr. Bonnie Badenoch, LMFT**

June 18 and 19, 2012 (must attend both days)  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Bonnie Badenoch, PhD, LMFT is an in-the-trenches therapist, supervisor, teacher, and author who has spent the last six years integrating the discoveries of neuroscience into the art of therapy. Out of this study, combined with her 19 years of working with survivors of trauma and attachment struggles, came her book, ***Being a Brain-Wise Therapist: A Practical Guide to Interpersonal Neurobiology***, published in 2008. Therapists are saying that this book fills the gap between science and practice, and does it with compassion and heart. Her new book, ***The Brain-Savvy Therapist's Workbook***, offers practices to foster therapist mental health and walks through the therapy process from first contact to transition. She has a gift for translating the complexities of brain science into words and examples that allow people to internalize the principles so they can use them in the counseling room with clients of all ages.



Bonnie Badenoch is co-founder of **Nurturing the Heart with the Brain in Mind**.  
<http://www.nurturingtheheart.org/>

"*Being a Brain-Wise Therapist* is filled with the wisdom of a seasoned front-line therapist who writes like a poet and understands science as if she were a full-time academician."

Daniel Siegel, foreword

## **2. Neuroscience and Play Therapy – APT Mining Report**

This mining report invites play therapists into the exciting links between our work with children and the ever-growing knowledge base from neuroscience. According to the latest research, one can argue that play therapy interventions, because they are not limited to verbal communication and expression, are well-suited to traumatized children.

Mining Report – July 2008

By Richard Gaskill, EdD, LCP, LCPC, RPT-S

<http://www.a4pt.org/download.cfm?ID=25623>

### 3. The National Institute for Play

The National Institute for Play is a non-profit public benefit corporation committed to bringing the unrealized knowledge, practices and benefits of play into public life. It is gathering research from diverse play scientists and practitioners, initiating projects to expand the clinical scientific knowledge of human play and translating this emerging body of knowledge into programs and resources which deliver the transformative power of play to all segments of society.

View a great TED talk video about the power of play at this link from the NIFP website.  
[http://nifplay.org/about\\_us.html](http://nifplay.org/about_us.html)

### 4. An inspirational life and video.

Earlier this week, Wangari Maathai, the first African woman recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, died after a long struggle with cancer. She was 71.

Wangari was one of Kenya's, and Africa's most recognizable women. She won the Nobel in 2004 for combining environmentalism and social activism. She was the founder of the Green Belt Movement, where for over 30 years she mobilized poor women to plant 30 million trees. There are some lovely picture books that tell about her life.

There is also a delightful YouTube clip of Wangari telling a story about a hummingbird. I recommend this video as something worthwhile to watch, and to show your students. It is about trying to do your best, even when the odds seem insurmountable. It's a great message and tribute to a woman whose courage and commitment to peace and justice made the world a better place. Click the link to watch.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGMW6YWjMxw>

### 5. VAPT Chapter News

Consider how you would like to exercise your creativity and enhance your work with more active engagement with your colleagues! We have VAPT chapters around our beautiful state. The **chapter chairs** are area **leaders in VAPT** who have an interest in bringing together members and non-members in your locality to learn and play. VAPT can offer **CE's for these gatherings**, when there is a topical presentation or discussion. Some chapters have been meeting for a while, some are just revving up and some are re-revving! Let's get busy and grow more APT and VAPT leaders!

Our VAPT strategic plan is to support the growth of play therapy chapters around the state.

Winchester Carmela Crawford	dccrawford1@verizon.net
Roanoke Stephanie Pratola	pratola@pratola.com
Lynchburg Norma White	norma.white@couplesandkids.com
Central Virginia Amy Kale Fraiters	play@mail.planetcomm.net
Rockbridge Katie Masey	kmasey@racs.org
Northern Virginia	
Joyce Meagher	kdknrlr@comcast.net
Cathi Spooner	cathispooner@hotmail.com
Sheri Mitschelen	shmitsch@cox.net
Tidewater Kathrin Hartmann	HartmaK@EVMS.EDU
Richmond Barbara J. Smith	bjsmith461@aol.com
Danville Cindy Lovell	clovell@dpcs.org

Feel free to contact the chapter chair in your area. You can consult the VAPT site MEMBERSHIP MAP (<http://vapt.cisat.jmu.edu/members.htm>) to see the name and email address for other members in your area of the state. (I update the map, using the data submitted to APT, two times a year.)

We are eager to learn how you would like to share your talents to promote the value of play and play therapy. Do not hesitate to contact me with brilliant ideas, certainly with any concerns and questions.

We are glad you are a member of our engaging learning community.