



March 2012

You are invited to attend!

Go to <http://vapt.cisat.jmu.edu/> or VAPT Facebook to see other information.

Upcoming Events and Trainings

Getting Confident for Court: The Play Therapist under Subpoena

Presented by Joyce Meagher, RN, LPC, LMFT, RPT-S

Youth for Tomorrow Campus Library in the Main Admin Bldg

11835 Hazel Circle Drive

Bristow VA 20136

Saturday, April 14, 2012

9:00am-4:30pm

Giving court testimony is a likely experience for play therapists and other mental health clinicians, as well as teachers, but training is scarce. In this workshop, you will learn preparation basics if subpoenaed, plus tactics to use before court and on the witness stand. Call Joyce at 703-816-3335 to register. Registration form attached.

Play Therapy with Traumatized Children: Integrating Directive and Non-Directive Approaches

Presented by Eliana Gil, PhD

Hotel Roanoke

110 Shenandoah Avenue

Roanoke, VA 24016

Friday, May 4, 2012

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

We are pleased to offer this one-day workshop on treating childhood trauma, led by one of the field's leading experts, Dr. Eliana Gil! This Roanoke, Va., conference is sponsored by the Virginia Association for Play Therapy and the Virginia Counseling Association, made possible by their local chapters, KIDS of Roanoke Valley and Roanoke Area Counselors Association (ROACA).

The workshop is designed for mental health counselors, psychologists, social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, psychiatrists, graduate students, and other professionals who work with children and families. "Play Therapy With Traumatized Children: Integrating Directive and Non-Directive Approaches" is designed to be of interest to beginning, intermediate, and advanced therapists of all theoretical orientations.

Register today at www.vcacounselors.org/cde.cfm?event=378673. Registration form attached.

Becoming a Brain-Wise Therapist: Using Play Therapy and Expressive Arts Across the Lifespan

Presented by Bonnie Badenoch, PhD, LMFT

James Madison University Festival Conference Center

Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Monday and Tuesday, June 18 and 19, 2012

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Whether we are working with little ones, teens, or adults, our ability to picture their brains and minds can help us craft healing play experiences that make the most of the brain's natural capacity for change. Understanding our own brains and minds, as well as the way in which this information integrates with the process of play therapy through the lens of interpersonal neurobiology (the work of Dan Siegel), can help us be evidence-based and compassionate clinicians as well. We will learn to balance the skills and experiences of play therapy and expressive arts that foster mental health and develop an understanding of brain-wise ways of working with our clients in this experiential and interactive workshop! See all the 16th annual conference details and register (after March 26th) at <http://vapt.cisat.jmu.edu/summerconference12/index.html>.

1. Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not."

— Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

March 2, 2012- On this day, Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, would have been 108 year old. One in four American children receives one of his 60 publications as their first book. His books often focus on a moral or principle to be learned while enhancing reading through rhyme. Books such as *The Lorax*, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *The Grinch* can be used as bibliotherapy to teach children about sharing, caring for the environment, and being considerate of others.

2. Get Crafty!

March is National Craft Month. As play therapists, we realize the importance of using various media to connect with children and facilitate healing for them. Why not take advantage of recognition of crafts this month to help a child around you?? APT member and author, Liana Lowenstein, MSW provides an online resource of various creative activities that can be used with children, adolescents, and families. Resources on crafts using clay, markers, paint, etc. can be found at:

<http://www.lianalowenstein.com/e-booklet.pdf>.

3. Anti-Bullying

On March 30, the movie *Bully* will be released in theaters. The film captures the experience of five children who are victims of bullying. Advocates of the movie hope that a glimpse into the personal lives of torment that can be created by constant public humiliation will bring more awareness to the effects of a problem that quickly growing across the nation. While the lives of the students



are highlighted, so are the efforts of family, friends, and other students to end bullying. The film has yet to be rated. See the Bully movie site at <http://thebullyproject.com/>

One school district in Johnstown, Ohio has taken bullying on head on, using a somewhat untraditional approach. Jim Bisenius, the founder of the Bully-Proofing program draws attention to the importance of body language and non-verbal communication in warding off bully. The program gives reference to the influence of each body part on the impression that a potential victim can give to a bully. For example, encouraging children to slowly raise their heads when approached by a bully, while remaining silent communicates the message of bravery an, "I'm not afraid of you." While keeping off bullies, this notion also builds confidence in the child explaining in contrast that a bowed head almost gives the person permission to bully him or her. The creator builds children up, telling them that using this type of body language is not only protective, but cool. Parents of children participating in the program see it as a means of giving their children power in the rules of engagement, giving them the lead in the dance. For more information, read the full article here, <http://www2.nbc4i.com/news/2012/jan/26/program-teaches-kids-to-combat-bullying-with-body--ar-911856/>. See the Bully movie site at <http://thebullyproject.com/>

4. VAPT Membership Drive for Gold Branch status

Here is a message created by VAPT NOVA member Sheri Mitshelen. Thanks, Sheri! Please share this invitation with your colleagues and encourage them to join VAPT/APT now.

If you have been thinking about or planning on joining the Association for Play Therapy now is the time to do it. The VA state chapter is seeking new members or old members to renew their membership by March 31, 2012. We are 7 people away from receiving permission to apply for Gold Branch status which is an status earned by branches in the Association for Play Therapy for extraordinary achievements.

If you have been thinking about joining it's easy to do. Go to www.a4pt.org and then the Membership section to fill out an online application. The fee is \$80.00 +\$15.00 for the State fee=\$95.00 for Professionals. For Students can join as an Affiliate for \$45.00+\$5.00 State fee. Members receive:

- FREE subscription to biweekly *Member Flash* to learn about important play therapy and APT news.
- FREE subscription to monthly [Mining Reports](#) featuring brief multi-disciplinary literature reviews that identify emerging trends, best practices, or the most current wisdom on specific topics.
- FREE subscription to quarterly [Play Therapy](#)TM featuring news, clinical articles, editorials, a leadership directory, advertisements, and other play therapy and APT information.
- FREE subscription to the peer-reviewed quarterly [International Journal of Play Therapy](#)[®] featuring original play therapy research, case studies, theoretical applications, and current practices.
- FREE and exclusive access to the *Members Only* section of the APT website featuring Community Listserves, Community Forums, archived Mining Reports and Play Therapy magazine articles, self-populating online member and RPT/S credentialing renewal forms, and a private Find A Member Directory.

5. Thank you to Lisa Wright and SCAN and our JMU and VCU students for their leadership and help with the 2012 Winter Workshop with Rick Gaskill!

6. Visit and "LIKE" our VAPT Website and Facebook page.

Visit often for updates on trainings and research and fun.

See <http://vapt.cisat.jmu.edu/> and <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Association-for-Play-Therapy/234395618441>

Playfully,

Ann and Marlana

Great work by Marlana Ashe, JMU doctoral student, for creating this note!!