



South African Sandplay Therapy Society

This newsletter provides information about the South African Sandplay Therapy Society (SASTS) and Sandplay Therapy as developed by Dora Kalff. It aims to facilitate communication between all SASTS members and to provide access to current research, events, and educational opportunities in the field of sandplay therapy. SASTS is a member society of the International Society of Sandplay Therapy (ISST) that encourages the highest quality of sandplay therapy practice from ISST certified sandplay therapists.

Visit our website at www.sasts.co.za

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

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ISST LIAISON SOUTH AFRICA



Dear Colleagues in
Jungian Sandplay

This is the second newsletter as a Developing ISST Group that is giving birth to our soon-to-be South African Sandplay Therapy Society.

Since our first newsletter, SASTS founding members were working hard behind the scenes to bring you a Society in line with ISST standards.

We are currently busy to put together a SASTS membership form that we will send to you by email to become a member of SASTS. It is our hope that as a SASTS member you will experience a Temenos through our Society to practice this wonderful therapeutic modality according to ISST standards and to use " Sandplay " in the sense of its founder Dora M Kalff.

Our monthly seminars continue (also with presentations by International ISST Teaching Members). The two-year Sandplay Therapy intensive training group will complete their last module at the end of the year and a new group is planned for 2023. We have monthly group supervisions and our South-African based ISST Teachers are available to give individual supervision.

In October, Dr Audrey Punnett, Jungian Analyst and ISST and STA Teaching Member, will visit SA to do a four-day intensive on Sandplay Therapy with children (8-11 October 2022).

All this information is available on our new website sasts.co.za, which was developed by John and Sylvia Clutten. Thank you to them for a splendid job! We are also very proud to welcome our new baobab tree logo for our Society that Sylvia Clutten's son developed for us. Thank you for this gift May you all find positive elements in your life the same way we look for it in a sandtray in a time where our planet is suffering as well as the hearts of many.

I send you all my best.

Braam

Integrity in love is the only true guide to the wisdom that leads to freedom.

Marion Woodman

ISST VICE-PRESIDENT EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

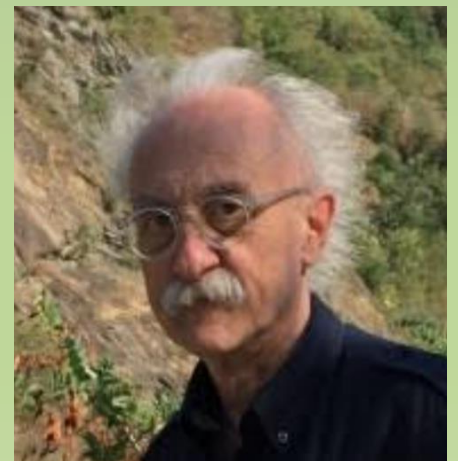
It is a great pleasure and an honor to be invited to write in the second newsletter of the South African Sandplay Society. As Vice-President for Europe/Africa/Middle East and member of the Developing Group Committee I share your joy and pride to become the first African ISST Society soon. I met your group twice, unfortunately online, and I highly appreciated your enthusiasm and your way of working with the images in depth. I hope that this could be a quality that will continue to characterize your society.

In my work for ISST I've always been focused to spread Sandplay in different geographical, cultural, and religious contexts, creating bridges between different cultures. In my view, we should be able to safeguard the fundamental principles of the Dora Kalff teaching, but at the same time be open to the differences coming from different cultural and historical backgrounds. It is the only way to keep Dora Kalff's heritage alive and in touch with a world in continuous evolution.

It is a great joy to say a warm welcome to the South African Sandplay Society in the ISST family. I hope that it would be possible to continue our fruitful collaboration, this time in person.

Deo Concedente!

Carlo Ruffino





In the beginning... Reyhana remembers

In 1986 I emigrated with my four children to Canada for political reasons. I held a Med.Sc Master's Degree in Social Work and had done a lot of training in South Africa with Stanton Andopphi. I believed I knew how to work with families and children.

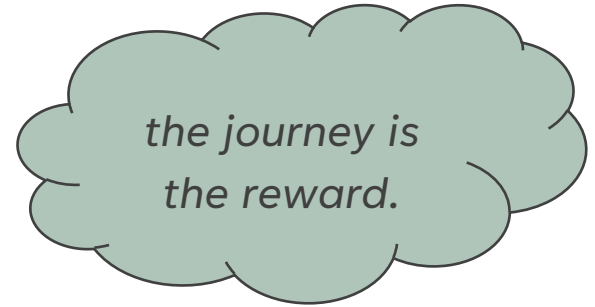
To my surprise, I learned that I had no training in play therapy or any training in working with children through my 7 years at university. I attended my first play therapy training and thereafter received a scholarship to study further in this field at the University of North Texas with Dr Garry Landreth.

This was a life changing experience. Not only did I learn how to provide therapy for children through play and sand play therapy, but also how to apply different types of interventions with different types of children.

On my returned to South Africa in 1993, I was a fully certified Play Therapist and Trainer. I started offering workshops in South Africa.

I also brought many international trainers in Play Therapy to South Africa. One of them was Lois Carey, a play therapist who trained with Dora Kalff, and she presented amazing workshops in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

It was at one of my workshops that I met my soulmate-friend Braam Beetge. He attended the same workshop



3 times, and I was curious about this. When I asked him why, he replied: "I knew I was looking for something. I found it here. I need to become a play therapist and learn about Sandplay Therapy".

I continued to attend the Association for Play Therapists in the USA regularly. Fascinated by sandplay therapy and eager to learn more about it, both Braam and I were interested in becoming Sandplay Therapists.

When I attended the ATP conference in Chicago, I met several people who were certified as Sandplay Therapists. I also heard about a residential training in Sandplay Therapy. I called Braam in South Africa to tell him about the training in Switzerland. We took a deep breathe about the cost. We desperately wanted to attend it, but we could not afford it. I approached the organizer to ask if we could pay in installments – what a moment....

So off we went to Switzerland for a phenomenal 2 ½ weeks of training. We ate bread, cheese, more bread, leaves! We simply had no money for food, only for miniatures!



At the 2-week Intensive Training in Switzerland in 2008. With Reyhana is Adriana Mazarella (Jungian Analyst and ISST Teaching Member and Judy Zappacosta (ISST Teaching Member). Both Adriane and Judy studied sandplay with Dora Kalff herself. Picture: Braam Beetge

While in Switzerland, we convinced Martin Kalff and his wife Sabine to come to South Africa to present training in sandplay and soul painting.

What a great success that was! Afterwards Braam and I started a training programme, inviting international trainers in Sandplay Therapy to provide theoretical training locally.

We initiated the first two-year intensive ISST certified training in South Africa and were very fortunate to have excellent trainers – Deborah Bedford-Strohm, Ruth Amman, Judy Zappacosta and Martin Kalff. Braam and I both worked towards certification and attended the ISST conference in Venice. Eventually, we both qualified as ISST therapists. We also met Imme Thom, who was a great asset for sandplay in South Africa.

Our journey was by no means easy. But it was amazing. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.



Reyhana and Braam with Dr Martin and Sabine Kalff in Zurich, Switzerland in 2008. Picture: Braam Beetge



Fun on a boat during the Kalff's 2012 visit to South Africa. Picture: Braam Beetge.



First ISST 2-year Intensive Training Group in South Africa with Dr Martin Kalff in 2011. Picture: Braam Beetge.

Please share your activities, photos, learning opportunities and inspirations with the editorial team.

immethom777@gmail.com or admin@retharoux.co.za

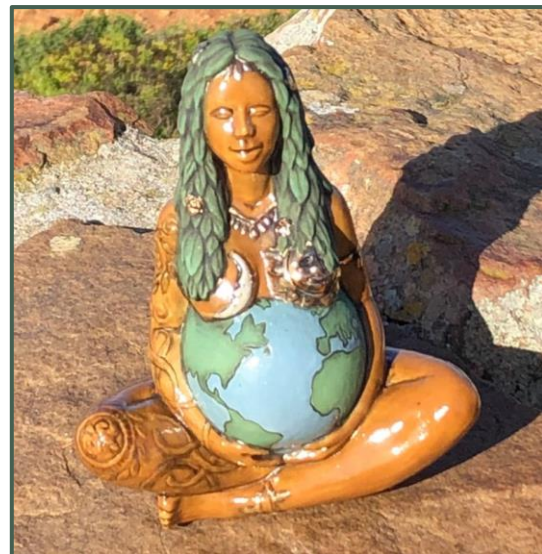
Indaba...

Two-Year Intensive Training Current Training Group: 5th Module

Mythological Considerations in Understanding the Jungian
Sandplay Therapy Process

22-24 July 2022

Bloemendal Clinic Paarl



Picture: Sylvia Clutten

Contact Braam or Imme for IN PERSON or ONLINE individual
supervision. Contact Gwenda for ONLINE supervision.

2022 Webinar Series

Last Thursday of the month on Zoom, 19:00 - 21:00

30 June

The Symbol of the House in the Context of Migration: Case Study

Maria Kendler (*President: Swiss Sandplay Society, Former
ISST Board member*)

28 July

The Transcendent Function in Analytical Psychology

Renee Ramsden (*Jungian Analyst, Clinical Psychologist*)

25 August

The Relational Fields in Sandplay Therapy

Dr Linda Cunningham (*STA & ISST Teaching member*)

29 September

Old and New Horizons in Sandplay Therapy

Dr Martin Kalff (*ISST Founding member, son of Dora
Kalff*)

27 October

The Spanish Dancer as a Symbols in Jungian Sandplay Therapy

Dr Nikki Themistocleous

17 November (*Third Thursday, due to other training*)

The Mandala IN CG Jung's Red Book.

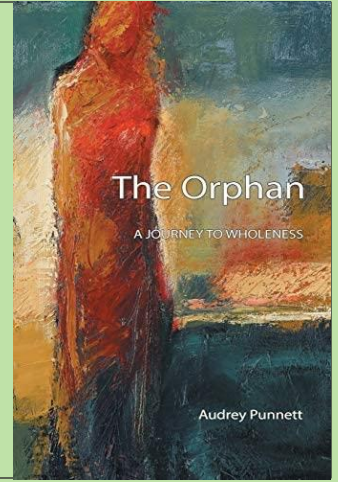
Dr Martin Kalff (*ISST Founding member, son of Dora
Kalff*)



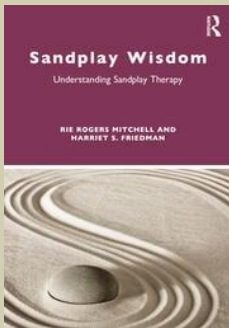
**Jungian Sandplay Therapy with Children
(4-day Intensive Training)**
24 ISST Credits, CPD points applied for
Dr Audrey Punnett
Jungian Analyst, STA & ISST Teaching Member

8-11 October 2022
9:00-17:00

Olyfboom Guesthouse, Paarl

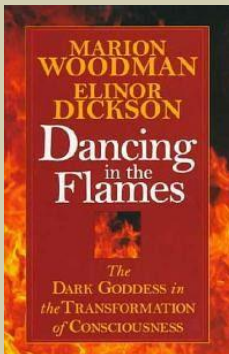


On the Shelf



Sandplay Wisdom: Understanding Sandplay Therapy

Rie Rogers Mitchell & Harriet S. Friedman



Dancing in the Flames: The Dark Goddess in the Transformation of Consciousness

Marion Woodman & Harriet S. Friedman

ISST Congress



The 26th ISST Congress will be held from March 26th to 30st 2023 at the Ye'arim Hotel in Kibbutz Ma'ale Hachamisha, 15 km from Jerusalem, in the beautiful landscape of the Jerusalem hills.

Deadline for presentation submissions: 1 July 2022

<http://sandplay.co.il/en/the-26th-isst-congress/>

Sandplay
TRAINING WORLDWIDE

experiential, depth training in the art
and science of sandplay therapy

**Exploring Complexes in Sandplay:
Integration and Transformation**

Dr Linda Cunningham

13 November 2022

9am-16:30 PST

<https://www.sandplaytrainingworldwide.com>

The Symbol Shack

The Black Madonna

The Black Madonna emerged as an archetypal figure with deep significance for many Sandplay therapists who studied with Dora Kalff. In the Intensive Sandplay Program in Switzerland organized over the years by Patty Flowers, first with Frau Kalff and then with Martin Kalff and Judy Zappacosta, it was tradition for the international Sandplay study group to visit Einsiedeln and the Einsiedeln Abby in Switzerland to experience the Black Madonna who is known to bring healing and justice for all those in need.

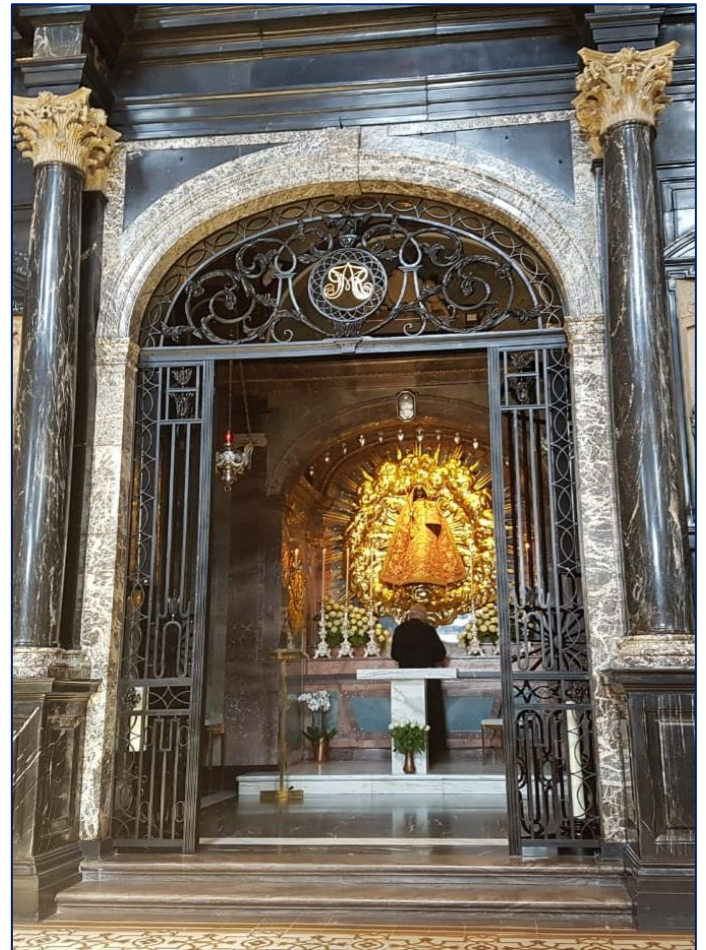
She represents for many the feminine side of God – a dark, unconscious mysterious and unpredictable side of the godhead (Zappacosta, 2016).

The Black Madonna was very much alive for me in my own inner world as I studied Sandplay Therapy and completed a circle, first as student in Switzerland and then being invited to teach Sandplay Therapy in the Sandplay Intensive programme in Switzerland. Compassionately, she helped me to grow in a more spiritual direction, celebrating the union of masculine and feminine aspects of my spiritual path.

Dora Kalff had a dream in which she asked Franz Jung, architect son of CG Jung, to help her find a house in Zurich to live in when she came from Parpan. The house, she said to Franz in her dream, must have a Madonna. As her life destiny worked out, she found her house, an old farmhouse that was built in 1485 in Hinder Zeunen, Zollikon. "I stood in front of the house, and I thought, that's the house. I couldn't see it yet, because the owner was away, but I knew it was the house. I saw rows of windows...with grapevines growing just outside of them and the Madonna! There is a Madonna inset into the front wall" (Kornfield, 2006, p 85).

In her living room Dora also had a wooden Madonna statue that she and her son Peter found and bought at a tea shop. It is still very much present today in the living room where Dora put it. For her it was important to bring in the energy of the Black Madonna into her Sandplay therapy room and to become part of the Temenos.

The Black Madonna's history is traced back in time to many goddesses, including Ishtar and Isis. In older civilisations, a goddess mother was documented as creator.



Black Madonna in Einsiedeln. Picture: Braam Beetge

When the Greeks worshipped her, they called her Artemis. The Black Madonna is also traced as the Mother Mary. In the East, one of the most striking counterparts of the dark goddess is Kali in India - the goddess of destruction and creation. Both the Black Madonna and Kali are associated with sacrifice. (Zappacosta, 2016).

The author Fred Gustafson (1990) referred to the Black Madonna as holding both religious and psychological importance and that these Black Madonna figures speak to that very deprived area of the soul, which hungers for value and hope amid that which cannot be defined and is incomprehensible in life.

In Sandplay Therapy she appears in a variety of ways offering symbolic representation of birth, death and regeneration.

For Dora Kalff she was the first image of femininity for a woman with her compassion, devotion and surrender. On her blackness, Kalff said "...I think it became dark, maybe through the candles that were burning in front of

her all the time. That could be one version. But when the Black Madonna appears, you know, let's say in my work with patients, I would usually be able to see it as the first impulse of the good feminine. It is still dark; it is not yet visible and open. It has to develop" (Kornfield, 2006).

Marion Woodman, a Jungian Analyst, (in Zappacosta, 2016) says about the Black Madonna: "She is a shadow side, shadow in the sense that she is not fully known, and thereafter, black. She is Mother, but she is also human, with an earthiness in her. In the past, the Black Madonna was worshipped for her fecundity, for her luscious giving to the earth - the bounty of the harvest, the bounty of the flowers, and the bounty of the evergreens...We as peoples of the world seem starved for her presence. She is emerging in feminine character, determined to save the planet because of her profound relationship to nature."

Braam Beetge

References

Gustafson, F. 1990. The Black Madonna. Boston: Siego Press.

Kornfield, L. 2006. The Good, Dark and Fertile Feminine: An Interview of Dora Kallf by China Galland Journal of Sandplay Therapy, Volume XV, Number 1, p 81-91

Zappacosta, J. 2016. The Black Madonna. Journal of Sandplay Therapy, Volume 25, Number 2, p 145 – 155



Picture: Braam Beetge



Judy Zappacosta in the Kalff's kitchen in Zollikon. Picture: Braam Beetge



Picture: Retha Roux