

The Association for Sandplay Therapy

Loving Kindness, Clarity & Humility in the Practice of Sandplay

"All The Light We Cannot See"



Dear Friends,

I recently watched a WW2 drama entitled "All The Light We Cannot See".

The main theme was based around a young woman in France who was blind, and yet bravely made nightly broadcasts on a radio frequency which enabled the allied forces, together with the French resistance to work towards the liberation of France.

I found myself intrigued by this title and reflected on how much this describes the world situation in general, and how it can also be applied to the Sandplay process. As we look around our world today, at all the wars, famines and other disasters, which bring such darkness, devastation, and desperation for so many people, it is hard to imagine that there is any light available at all, or to see how there can possibly be a way through. Perhaps we feel the same in our own personal circumstances.

Likewise, when clients come to us and begin their Sandplay process, so often we find that they are plunged into the deepest darkness and we as therapists must hold on to the hope of, "All the light that we cannot yet see". Sometimes it takes periods of darkness to truly reveal this light, and great faith to believe that it is still there, despite what seems to be evidence to the contrary.

All our great religious traditions celebrate the hope of this light. At this time of

year, we celebrate the festivals of Hanukkah, Diwali, and Christmas. Each of these remind us that light triumphs over darkness. Nature itself teaches us that however long and dark the night seems, the sun always rises. However deep and prolonged the winter is, spring never fails to come. Whatever hopeless and difficult situations we encounter, the promise and light of hope is never far away.

The work of the AST has continued to provide light and hope in many ways this past year. We are providing both face to face and online training in many different countries and our membership continues to grow at a steady rate. Several of our members have become consultants or teachers, whilst others are in training to expand their skills and contribute to our organisation long into the future. We look forward to our African Congress for the first time in many years.

As we approach this holiday season, in whatever situation we find ourselves, my prayers are that we all might discover this light, even if yet it is something which we cannot see.

The board of AST wish you a peaceful, joyful, and illuminating holiday season. May the year ahead be filled with clarity, brightness, and assurance that the light will shine in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it (John 1 vs 4).

Eunice Stagg
AST President



AST Biennial International Sandplay Congress 2024!!!
Hippo Lakes, Luxury African Safari Lodge, South Africa 1st -
8th September 2024

The Quest for Meaning through Sandplay:
What Does the Experience of Sandplay Mean to You?

The Association for Sandplay Therapy is delighted to hold its first Sandplay Congress in five years in September 2024 in South Africa, at the luxury safari resort of Hippo Lakes!

This is an opportunity for you to immerse yourself in the spirit of Sandplay in Africa and honour the beauty of this therapy, whilst having the experience of a lifetime! Come to South Africa to connect with fellow Sandplay Therapists, taste the incredible African cuisine and listen to the sounds of the African night under a canopy of stars, breathtakingly visible in the Southern hemisphere.

The conference will begin on the evening of Sunday 1st September 2024 and finish on Sunday 8th September 2024.

What to expect:

- Luxury 4* ensuite room with air-conditioning (two people sharing)
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner all included (buffet style)
- All coffee, tea, juice, water included (alcohol and soda own bill)
- Conference lectures, discussions and presentations
- Game drives around the reserve (over 30 different animal species)
- 1x "Big 5" excursion to see lions, elephants, rhinos, buffalos & leopards
- A memorable Braai (BBQ) eaten under canvas
- Bus transport between Hippo Lakes & OR Tambo Airport

Excluded from Congress Fee:

- Flights, travel, and accommodation outside Hippo Lakes
- Alcohol and soft drinks obtainable from cash bar
- All extra game drives and excursions available at the venue

Cost: Costs have not been confirmed yet, but will be in the region of \$1750 / £1400 per person - **more details to follow...!!!!** Partners also welcome at a reduced rate. (Price does not include flights or any overnight accommodation / taxis needed in Johannesburg.)

There is also the option to upgrade to 5 luxury lakeside tents at the end of the conference for a higher fee – Friday & Saturday evenings only.*

Please join and share the AST Sandplay Congress Facebook Group for more information!

Image above: Hippo Lakes, South Africa.



Are you interested in attending the International Sandplay Congress 2024 in South Africa?

Yes

No

About Hippo Lakes

Hippo Lakes brings you the ultimate luxury African Safari experience. Situated in the spectacular Waterberg region, the lodge is uniquely nestled along the edge of a lake bank at the end of a long rugged ravine. The lodge offers you a unique safari wildlife encounter with an unusually large number of animals, birds and plant life.

Hippo Lakes lies within the malaria free UNESCO World Nature Site. Over 30 animal species roam the area including hippo, buffalo, wildebeest, leopard, giraffe, kudu, sable, eland, nyala, hyaena and wild dog. You also have the option to go on "Big 5" excursions to encounter lion, elephant and rhinos.

The greater Waterberg region is reported to have more rhino than all of Kenya and Hippo Lakes proudly support anti-poaching initiatives to keep this magnificent species viable.

"The Waterberg is South Africa's Eden. Tucked away in Limpopo province, the pristine, rugged and ancient Waterberg region has soaring mountain peaks, antediluvian rock formations, expansive savannah plains, dense riparian forests and plunging river valleys. Here iconic animals tend to outnumber its human counterparts." - CNN Travel

Safety is key and rest assured, Hippo Lakes take great care in both the game drives and accommodations to keep you out of danger from the animals.



Training Opportunities

Eunice Stagg, President AST, STR-CT - UK Training

New Sandplay Training Dates for 2024:

- February 26th 2024
- May 13th 2024
- July 8th 2024
- September 23rd 2024

For further information please contact: e.stagg@btinternet.com

Nataly Valyraki, STR-CT - European Training in Greece

Sandplay Therapy Training from January 2024 - for the 1st time in Greece and in the Greek language!

Earn your Sandplay Therapist title with certification from the Association for Sandplay Therapy.

Hybrid Education Model: Online Webinars & In-Person.

For further information, please see: <https://www.sandplay.gr>

Celia van Wyk, PhD, STR-CT - South Africa Training

New Sandplay Training Dates for 2024:

- 18 October 2023 – 23 October 2024 (Wednesdays)
- 22 January 2024 – 31 March 2025 (Mondays)
- 27 January 2024 – 29 March 2025 (Saturdays)

For further information please contact: celia@sandplay.co.za / training@sandplay.co.za

Barbara A. Turner, PhD, STR-CT, RPT-S

Sandplay Online Webinar Training

Webinar-based Sandplay training continues with the addition of our second group. This is a wonderful way of learning and connecting with our international colleagues. Part of Dr. Turner's PhD program was in creating online transformative learning platforms. In this she specialized in Sandplay therapy.

[If you are interested in joining a training group, you may contact Barbara: DrBarb@BarbaraTurner.org](#)

Individual and Group Consultations

A reminder that if you would like **Individual Consultation** from a Registered Sandplay Therapist-Consultant (STR-C) or Registered Sandplay Therapist-Consultant Teacher (STR-CT), the following members of the AST are available to support you. Please click on the name and it should take you direct to their email or website.

[Alison Howe STR-C](#)

[Brendan Harding STR-C](#)

[Rose Harriet STR-CT](#)

[Daniella Marinescu STR-CT](#)

[Rachel McGovern STR-CT](#)

[Eunice Stagg STR-CT](#)

[Lynne Souter-Anderson STR-C](#)

[Jamie Straessler STR-C](#)

[Barbara A. Turner, PhD STR-CT](#)

[Natalia Valyraki STR-C](#)

[Celia van Wyk STR-CT](#)

Additionally, AST Board Members Rachel McGovern (UK) and Nataly Valyraki (Greece) hold separate **Group Consultations** online. Nataly's **Group Consultations** for this year take place once a month. They last 2 hours and continue until June 2024 (10 sessions, 20 group consultation hours):

GROUP 1: 3rd Wednesday of each month 15.00-17.00 UK time

GROUP 2: 4th Tuesday of each month 16.00-18.00 UK time

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Please consider contributing your musing or experiences to the newsletter.
We love hearing from our members across the globe.
Send your submission to: info@sandplayassociation.com

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