



THE HAWAII PLAY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR PLAY THERAPY
January 2005

A MESSAGE from the BOARD

Dear Members,

Aloha! Our new board is now in place. Thank you to everyone who participated in the election process, and to the outgoing board members for all of their hard work and dedication. It's another exciting year ahead, with our highly anticipated conference with Eliana Gil less than a month away (February 25th and 26th at Radisson Prince Kuhio). If you haven't gotten your registration in yet, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. You can even register online now: go to www.hawaiiplaytherapy.net and you will see a link.

Presenting Our New President: INGA PARK OKUNA

Aloha! For those of you who don't know me, I'm a school counselor at the Hawaii Center for the Deaf and the Blind (HCDB). I wear many hats there including play therapist, autism consultant, parent educator, and sometimes psych examiner. I'm also a freelance sign language interpreter (25 years now). I am also a member of the NEA Diversity Trainers Cadre and do diversity trainings on the mainland for educators. I will be doing a training in Oregon the week before our conference. I can now say, as of a couple weeks ago, that I have five children! Jana is 24 (she's going to rent a room next door), my former foster son Michael is 22 (and soon to find an apt), Keith is 12 and attends Kawanakoa Middle School, my foster son (we are petitioning for permanent custody soon) Brandon (BJ) is 11 and attends HCDB, and our brand new foster (high risk adopt) daughter, Karina is only 9 months old. Michael, Brandon and Karina are deaf. We are a multicultural family and have 3 adults parenting the two youngest. Neil works as an air traffic controller, and my girlfriend Roz is a sign language interpreter, student, and mommy to BJ (I'm "mom"). We have learned about attachment disorder first hand and we are winning the battle. We also have 3 adult dogs and 1 puppy, 1 senior citizen cat and 1 kitten, 1 parrot, 3 chickens, 2 turtles, a mouse, and several different fish bowls. Life is never dull in our busy household!

It's an exciting year for HAPT, with Eliana Gil as our conference presenter, a soon to be ready

HAPT office, and a possible change in our by-laws, meeting dates, and elections timelines. I took office as your new president on October 2nd. As I was preparing the agenda for that meeting, printing the membership lists, and packing for the APT conference, I admit I was running on adrenaline and little more. I knew I had to run a board meeting, the annual meeting, and then finish packing and be on a plane that night.

APT Conference in Colorado

The APT conference held in Colorado was fantastic! I attended every workshop, meeting and event possible. Merry Glass and I arrived a day early so we could recover from jet lag before the all day workshops began. We took advantage of the time and went sightseeing. I want to thank Merry for taking me to some wonderful sights, including the Continental Divide at the top of the Rockies, covered in snow! It was my idea of a perfect way to experience a light snowfall - get out of the car, freeze for a bit, and jump back in! Quite fun! The preconference workshops and then the conference workshops were informative and helpful. I will post some of my notes on the web. I took an all day workshop with Terri Kottman, founder of Adlerian Play Therapy and asked her about being our 2007 conference presenter. She is very interested and we will be in touch with her over the next two years. I appreciate HAPT sponsoring my airfare and hotel room so that I could attend the conference.

Board Transition

We had our joint board meeting in December. It's hard to say goodbye to the outgoing board members after a year of hard work and bonding. I want to again thank them for their dedication. Sue Bergman ended a three-year term on the board as president-elect/president/past-president. She provided invaluable direction and guidance and I know I will continue to call on her from time to time. Michelle Kaya took copious notes and provided us with excellent minutes as well as served as our historian. Susan Cohen ("Susha"), slaved over numbers and figures and data.... she mastered Quicken and created detailed financial reports. Pat Yuen, our member-at-large, created our wonderful newsletters. Thankfully, we still have Rebecca Rinehart to serve as past-president (my guide). And we are extremely fortunate to have Scott O'Neal as our webmaster... he knows a lot about websites and computers! He's one of the busiest people I know, but somehow manages to manage things for us from label printing to updating the website and adding services. We are also extremely grateful to Anita Trubitt for setting up and handling all of our continuing education units. I also want to welcome our new board members. Bonnie Coutsourakis, our president-elect, has a cheerful positive energy and is willing to jump in and help whenever needed. Merle Bonnell, secretary, will be providing the minutes of our meetings along with her expertise and wisdom. Pat Dana, our treasurer, has already jumped in with both feet, handling the money matters. Jennifer Takahashi, member-at-large, put together this wonderful edition of our newsletter.

Committee Chairs

I also want to thank our outgoing conference chairs, Monica Evans and Sue Bergman, who did such a fantastic job with last year's conference. A big mahalo to their committee members and volunteers. It was a very successful conference and you must know the work involved was tremendous. Our 2005 co-chairs, Nami-Anne Dolan and Corinne Matsumoto, as well as their committee, are hard at work preparing for this year's conference. Everything from the audiovisual equipment, the food, the speaker and the CEU's is handled by our competent and dedicated team. I hope more members will get involved in the planning and preparation of our conferences and our workshops. Last year's Program Committee Chairs, Nami-Anne Dolan and Blyth Kozuki did a terrific job of taking care of our annual and semi-annual meetings. They coordinated the food, the speakers, the location and the publicity. A big mahalo to both of them for a wonderful job. Peggy Brandt and Jenny Dyer, incoming Program Committee Chairs, are

already working on our May meeting/workshop.

Final Mahalos

There are so many people to thank including Roger Epstein for his pro bono work on helping us align our bylaws with Hawaii's statutes and to Joni Orimoto of Price, Waterhouse, & Cooper for her pro bono work with our taxes. I'm sorry I can't name everyone who has contributed/is contributing to HAPT's success. We are an important organization and we need to promote play therapy because the most important people, the children who benefit from play therapy, can't promote it for themselves. We must be heard so that children can heal and have better lives. If you haven't already been actively involved with HAPT, please consider serving on a committee or running for office.

Thanks very much!

Inga Park Okuna

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

**GROUP SUPERVISION
WITH
DR. ELIANA GIL**

When: Sunday, February 27, 2005
9:00 a.m.-12 noon

Location: Kamehameha Schools
Kapalama Campus
Kekelaokalani Building, Room 219

Please RSVP to Corinne Matsumoto
Telephone: 681-5993 or 842-8823
e-mail : corinnematsumoto@yahoo.com

Supervision fee of \$90.00 an hour payable at the door to Dr. Eliana Gil.

Note: If you will be arriving after 9 a.m., please notify Corinne as the building will be secured at 9 a.m.

Let It Be Known That.

Members are welcome to put text ads in the HAPT newsletter. E-mail member-at-large@hawaiiplaytherapy.net.

RPT and RPT-S members with web sites are welcome to link from the HAPT website to their own personal websites. For information, contact Scott O'Neal at webhead@hawaiiplaytherapy.net.

MEMBER NEWS

Christine Ahia

One of our members & past presidents, Christine Ahia, is being a featured artist on the Big Island at the EHCC Mauka Gallery, 141 Kalakaua St. in Hilo, January 7-28. It is billed as "The Beauty of Mauna Kea" - Views from Saddle Road and other recent works by Christine Ahia and is being presented by the East Hawaii Cultural Center. For those who live on the Big Island or anyone who will be visiting the Hilo area in the next week, stop in and see her work!

Olivia Harkins Rodriguez

Olivia has been chosen by the Association for Play Therapy to join the national delegation from APT to go to Sri Lanka 2/4 to 2/14 to provide support to the children impacted by the tsunami disaster. She is the school-based behavioral health person for Laie and Kaaawa schools as well as an art therapist. We are proud of her and wish her a safe journey as she gives of herself and her skills to make a difference.

Newsletter Contributions Welcomed:

As always, we welcome contributions to the newsletter: letters to the editor; articles; tips or techniques that you have found helpful; announcements; resources; toys wanted or for sale, etc., etc. Please contact member-at-large@hawaiiplaytherapy.net

A Reminder:

If you received this edition of the newsletter by regular mail and prefer to receive it by e-mail, send your name and e-mail address to member-at-large@hawaiiplaytherapy.net. To ensure that you receive all HAPT news in a timely manner, please inform us of any name or address changes. THANKS!!

Contacting HAPT

Visit the HAPT Website: www.hawaiiplaytherapy.net, call our voice mail at 440-4624, write to P.O. Box 1428, Kailua, Hawaii 96734; or email members of the HAPT Board of Directors.

HAPT 2004-2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Inga Park Okuna, President, (ingapark@aol.com)
 Bonnie Coutsourakis, President-Elect, (coutsourb001@hawaii.rr.com)
 Merle Bonnell, Secretary, (bonnellh001@hawaii.rr.com)
 Pat Dana, Treasurer, (pixelcat@aloha.net)
 Jennifer Takahashi, Member At Large, (jennifertakahashi@msn.com)
 Rebecca Rinehart, Past-President, (kaimilani@earthlink.net)

*“Remember, you are the greatest tool in the work you do.”
(Kaz Kumabe, late professor at UH School of Social Work)*
