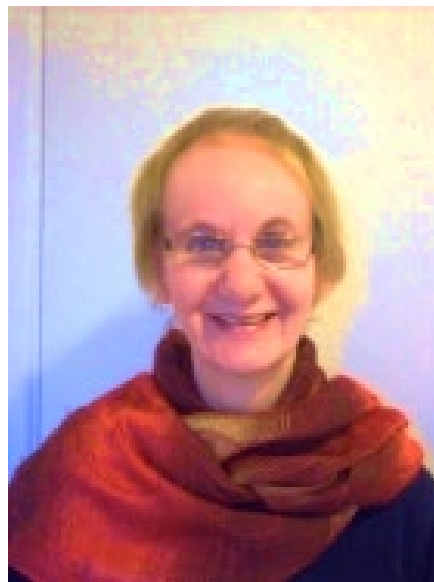




IN MEMORIAM



Eunice Stagg

1954 - 2025

The *World Association of Sand Therapy Professionals* joins with our sand therapy friends and colleagues in honoring Eunice Stagg. Her leadership role in Sandplay Therapy was profound. Several of her colleagues and friends pay tribute to her here.

Obituary

It's with deep regret that we share that Eunice Stagg sadly passed away on Thursday, 22nd May. She was an amazing person who spent her whole life taking care of others. Her kindness, generosity and empathy was shared with people from all walks of life, all across the world.



WORLD JOURNAL FOR SAND THERAPY PRACTICE

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

She leaves behind a legacy of wisdom, care and love. We are so proud to call her wife, Mum and most recently Nana. She is much loved and will always be remembered.

[Full obituary and information](#)



In Memory of Eunice Stagg

With deep sadness and profound gratitude, I join the Sandplay community in mourning the passing of the dear mentor and friend Eunice Stagg. Her presence in our field—and in the hearts of those she touched—was both formative and unforgettable.

I first met Eunice at the very beginning of my Sandplay journey. In that first encounter, she seemed to see something in me—something I have yet to fully recognize in myself. It was as if she had a rare ability to perceive potential, to hand-pick those whom she sensed were meant to walk this path. I know I am not alone in this experience; many of us were quietly, yet



WORLD JOURNAL FOR SAND THERAPY PRACTICE

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

profoundly, called forth by her discerning eye and her unwavering trust in the deeper unfolding of the psyche.

Her contribution to Sandplay Therapy extends far beyond her clinical work and teaching. Through her presence, her insight, and her deep respect for the symbolic realm, she cultivated spaces where genuine transformation could take root. Her legacy lives on in the countless students, colleagues, and clients who were touched by her work—and in the quiet echoes of healing that continue through them.

I remain deeply grateful for her guidance, her kindness, and the grace with which she accompanied so many of us on our paths. In mourning her passing, I honor the gift of her life and the enduring inspiration of her work.

May her memory continue to guide and bless us all.

Natalia Valyraki
Psychologist, MSc, Sandplay Therapist/Consultant/Teacher
Crete, Greece

Tribute to Eunice Stagg – Treasured Friend and Colleague

I have known Eunice Stagg for nearly 20 years. From the very first time I met her, I was struck by her wisdom, calmness, spirituality, generosity, and kindness. I could go on with the superlatives, but there aren't enough words.

Eunice has had many careers in her life, training as a nurse, a counsellor, and then training as a Play Therapist, Sandplay Therapist, and a teacher of both. She has written articles for professional journals, chapters in Sandplay books, and, most close to my heart, has led the most amazing Sandplay retreats all around the world.

I met Eunice whilst she was teaching for APAC, the teaching arm of Play Therapy UK; she was my course director for my diploma in Play Therapy, and I experienced then, for the first time, the safety and security that she created for everyone to be able to explore whatever came up in a therapeutic setting. It was the first time that I understood the spiritual nature of working with the unconscious and how Eunice was able to create that safe and protected space that was so wonderful for so many people. She had the most profound and amazing presence for such a diminutive person!



WORLD JOURNAL FOR SAND THERAPY PRACTICE

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

It was several years later that I crossed paths with Eunice again, and in this time she had taken her own training and understanding to another level, studying Jungian Sandplay and qualifying as a Sandplay Therapist. This was a turning point for Eunice as she developed her own training course and used her teaching skills to bring this amazing modality to so many people. I remember sitting in her Sandplay training and being totally mesmerised by the power and content of the training and then experiencing the impact of doing my own sand trays with Eunice as my guide. Ten years on I can still visualise my sandtrays but more importantly I can still feel the safety and compassion that Eunice created. I treasure those moments immensely and I know that is something every person who trained with Eunice will have experienced. The love and compassion she had for her fellow humans was immense.

Eunice believed so strongly in Sandplay and it became her life moving from Play Therapy training to purely Sandplay training and it was around this time that she was a major part of setting up the Association for Sandplay Therapy with Dr. Barbara Turner and Dr. Celia Van Wyk. An international organization dedicated to the training and registration of mental health clinicians as Sandplay Therapists. I remember Eunice contacting me and telling me about AST and she was so adamant that all were welcome to join, she was so excited to see the birth of AST and what it might mean for developing and teaching Sandplay all around the world. Her delight that Sandplay would become accessible to so many was infectious and definitely encouraged me to take the arduous journey to becoming a Registered Sandplay Therapist with AST. Something I will never regret. Eunice went on to train many, many therapists all over the World; particularly with her beloved friends in Singapore, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ireland; and especially here in the UK; so many of us have been inspired and encouraged by her, she had this knack of making you believe in yourself because she believed in you! A precious gift we will all miss terribly.

Sadly, Covid hit the World and face-to-face training became very difficult, but Eunice was determined to continue her work, knowing the great impact that the presence of a trainer and therapist in the room, experiencing the power of the symbols and sand had on trainees, and she soon started up her training again. She never lost her enthusiasm for this work, even though it was a really difficult time. Even in the last few years, facing extreme illness, she soldiered on and didn't stop bringing her passion for Sandplay to many, many more therapists. With her beloved friend Rachel McGovern and fellow teacher at her side they delivered the most amazing training and her legacy lives on in each and every therapist she has trained, and all the people they have worked with. Eunice has created her own Sandplay World Wide Web. She supported so many and I have seen the dedications for her work pouring in; I think she would feel very overwhelmed but I hope she knew how loved she was.



WORLD JOURNAL FOR SAND THERAPY PRACTICE

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

Eunice took on the role of President of AST upholding the principles of AST, leading with kindness and humility, encouraging so many to take the path to becoming Registered Sandplay Therapists with AST. She understood the dedication it took to take this journey and supported so many along the way. She brought together a team of people to support the organisation and she led with great wisdom and kindness. The Board will miss her steadying presence immensely.

Eunice was not just a work colleague, she was so much more than that. She was a teacher, a mentor, a spiritual guide, an encourager, a believer, a coach, and most definitely a precious friend. So many people she has worked with! Eunice's PTUK membership number was 382, at the start of Play Therapy here in the UK, now there are more than 7,000 members of PTUK, and over 250 members of AST. Just imagine the worldwide impact of Eunice on so many, and the pay-it-forward attitude she had. I wouldn't even be able to estimate how many people's lives have been changed for the better because of Eunice Stagg! The world is a sadder place, but ultimately a better place, because of what she has given each of us.

Janet Cassidy
Secretary – Association for Sandplay Therapy
Play Therapist
Registered Clinical Supervisor
Registered Sandplay Therapist
MBACP/PTUK

Eunice Stagg Remembered

It is with deep sorrow and the greatest respect that we have said goodbye to Eunice Stagg, a gifted teacher and friend.

Whether it was swimming in Transylvania, cuddling lion cubs in South Africa, or whale watching in Iceland, Eunice was always up for an adventure. We had such good times and shared so many laughs. One memorable time, we were thrashed by blistering winds on the deck of a boat in the North Sea, wearing huge, puffy orange suits that were supposed to protect us, although we could hardly move in them. Screaming across the deck so she could be heard, she shouted, "How is it that you look so good in your suit?" We both cracked up, as these were the ugliest costumes imaginable!



WORLD JOURNAL FOR SAND THERAPY PRACTICE

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

Eunice was a person of great depth. In addition to an early career in nursing, Eunice studied the sacred texts. I first met her in 2009, when she took my online course curriculum in Jungian Sandplay Therapy. I then met her in person for the first time in Morocco in 2010. When reading her course papers, it was clear that she was a person who was centered in the spirit. She understood how Jungian Sandplay works to realign consciousness to the divine within. In addition to this, she could articulate this highly complex process. We shared an unspoken reverence for our work in the sand, taking delight in each student or client whose life was changed by Sandplay. Eunice contributed a significant chapter on the spirit in Sandplay, illustrating a client's inner journey toward truth to *The Routledge International Handbook of Sandplay Therapy*, 2017 (Ed. Turner).

Eunice became a teacher of Jungian Sandplay under the auspices of the Association for Sandplay Therapy. Eunice took the work in the sand around the globe. In addition to many students in the United Kingdom, she taught in faraway venues like Australia, Pakistan, and India. When Barbara Turner, founder of the Association for Sandplay Therapy, retired as President, Eunice very capably assumed the role. Under Eunice's watch, there are now trained and Registered Jungian Sandplay therapists around the globe. Even when diagnosed with cancer, she continued teaching and overseeing the Association.

I am deeply indebted to Eunice Stagg for her generous gifts to Jungian Sandplay, for the wealth of discussions we shared, and for being a dear friend. I will miss her dearly and am honored to have known her.

Barbara A. Turner, PhD

A Tribute to Eunice

I have had the greatest privilege of knowing Eunice as my trainer and as a dear friend. To me, Eunice was a woman of clear vision and had the ability to make things happen! Eunice was very committed to her faith and to the world of Sandplay, which she was very proud of. Many lives I know, have been touched by Eunice's gentle presence in ordinary and in extraordinary ways.

What I love about Eunice was, she knew what she was about and knew what she stood for! Eunice had the ability to sit with what was uncomfortable. Even in times of illness, Eunice remained focused and in situations, she never minced her words!



WORLD JOURNAL FOR SAND THERAPY PRACTICE

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

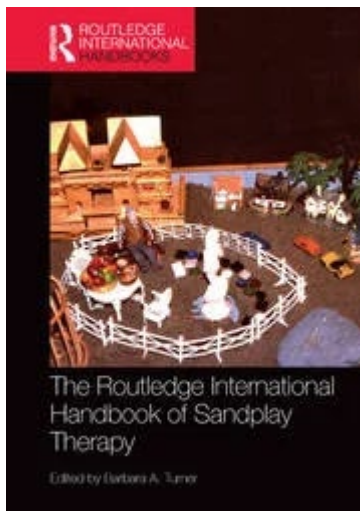
Eunice had the great gift of making a person feel that they were the only person in the room, when they were with her.

On a personal note, when I was began training to be a Sandplay therapist, Eunice, in a way, only Eunice could say, was that “Sandplay will change your life!” At first, I brushed this comment aside, but Eunice, of course, you were right! and sandplay has changed my world and, I am so glad it has!

I am deeply grateful for the gift of Eunice in my life and for what she taught and shown me, which all continues to shape my ongoing journey.

Eunice was the captain of our AST ship, steering us always forward. I have no doubt. that she will be helping to steer our ship in a different way now, however with continued deep conviction. Eunice you will forever remain in our hearts and will never be forgotten!

Ann C. O’Sullivan RST
Association for Sandplay Therapy
Board Member



Book Chapter:

Return to the Spirit in Sandplay

In *The Routledge International Handbook of Sandplay Therapy*, 2017, Barbara Turner, Editor.

ABSTRACT

Jungian sandplay draws upon the many psychological theories of Carl Jung in an attempt to understand and explains what might be happening in the sand tray. Sandplay transcends psychotherapists' religious preferences and leads them to the heart of the matter. Annie's case is a wonderful example of the power of sandplay to facilitate the return to the spirit and to reconnect, restore, and rediscover the power of totality, the true self. Sandplay allows psychotherapists to restore the spirit through the symbolic activation of deep spiritual archetypes, which compel them to become – to become all that they truly are and can be, and to seek the unique and wonderful potential that lies within. Sandplay takes each client on a journey to search for something more than psychotherapists has ever known, to reach for the possibilities beyond their own finite resources, and, in the magnificence of this discovery, they discover the true self.



WORLD JOURNAL FOR SAND THERAPY PRACTICE

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

Book Author Biography:

Eunice Stagg - BACP, Dip Theology, lives and works as a Jungian Sandplay therapist in private practice near London, UK. She is a teaching member of the Association for Sandplay Therapy (AST) and serves on the governing council. She has published articles in the Journal of Sandplay Therapy and the Jungian Sandplay Therapy Almanac. She has been an Associate Lecturer for both Canterbury Christchurch University in the UK and the National University of Ireland, Galway. She is an Accredited Play Therapist, Senior Supervisor, and Senior Trainer for Play Therapy International (PTI) and has conducted training around the world.

Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/> Any further distributions of this work (noncommercial only) must maintain attribution to the author(s), the title of the work, journal citation, and DOI.