



WORLD JOURNAL FOR SAND THERAPY PRACTICE

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF SAND THERAPY

Editor's Commentary

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U.S.A.

Honoring Those Who Have Gone Before

In this issue we commemorate the lives of two of our sand therapy leaders: Sherry Ann Fisher, from the United States, who was part of the founding group and subsequently served as the first president of the World Association of Sand Therapy Professionals. Also, Eunice Stagg, of the United Kingdom, who taught sand therapy extensively and widely, was the current president of the Association for Sandplay Therapy. Both were practitioners, beloved mentors and colleagues, who dedicated themselves to serving their professional associations. Please read more about their lives in the **In Memoriam** sections devoted to each of them in this issue.

Additionally, one of our authors passed away unexpectedly. Milo Katsumata wrote the article, [Blue Butterfly](#), in the last issue of 2024. She recently received the credential of our Registered Sand Therapist – Consultant/Trainer (RST-C/T). Our current president, Roz Heiko, was her mentor and friend, and wrote the following:

Katsumata-san died a week ago, suddenly, of a brain hemorrhage. Miho leaves behind a devoted husband in Thailand and an adorable 2-year-old son. They were about to move to China, where she was anticipating working in sandplay: *"We are going to live here in Beijing from August. I will be a school counselor/psychologist at Canadian International School of Beijing !!!"*. She was looking forward to providing a training on Sandplay for WASTP. She was a gentle, humble, wonderful woman and therapist, spiritual and religious. Everyone who met her was the better for it. My heart misses her so. (July 18, 2025)

We join with friends, family, and colleagues who knew these ladies and offer our deepest condolences. Our sand therapy world is a better, stronger, and more vibrant place because of each of them.

In This Issue

This issue begins with an intriguing article about sand therapy in New Zealand. The co-authors are from New Zealand and the United States. They share the expansion of sand therapy in New

Zealand. The cultural insights are thoughtful and informative. While sharing the case study of a young daughter anticipating the death of her mother, the authors provide us a window into the culture and the tender work with this child.

The use of sand therapy in working with families dealing with pediatric illness is the focus of our practice article. It is informative regarding the impact of pediatric illness on families. The author identifies the Biopsychosocial Model as a framework for working with these families. He then discusses how sandtray therapy can assist the family in resolving these issues, as a short case study illustrates the integration of this approach.

A review of *"The Silent Language: Sandplay Therapy for Adolescents, A Model in Working with Systemic Traumatherapy,"* published in Spain (and thus in Spanish), is written by a bilingual sand therapist and colleague, Diana Garza Louis. Her review is available both in Spanish and English. Enjoy!

Finally, our Associate Editor, Theresa Fraser, explores the use of seashells in the sand. She is assisted by two other sand therapists, one from Thailand and the other from Poland. Watch for the announcement to participate on our Facebook page. We would love to have you share how your clients use miniatures.

We are always inviting manuscripts – on theory, case studies, literature reviews, research, et. I you have an interest, please contact me at LHomeyer@txstate.edu or visit the website for [Information for Authors.](#)

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