

## **In Memoriam Serge Ginger**

Dear Anne, dear colleagues,

I apologize, not to be able to express myself better in French. So I prefer to speak in English and Isabelle Crespelle will translate it for You.

It is an honor for me to get the opportunity to say a few words on Serge Ginger and his life from the point of view of the president of the European Association for Gestalttherapy, EAGT.

To me Serge was a well known man long before I met him personally. I knew he was an extraordinary French Gestalt therapist with a lot of activities in EPG, FORGE and the French Gestalt Community.

I remember a personal meeting during my accreditation-visit of EPG as EAGT-Training Institute and EAP-Training Institute: He had already stepped back from leadership of EPG, Gonzague was the actual leader by then. But of course Serge also wanted to meet me to say some things about the institute that was founded by him and his wife Anne. So we met for a dinner, together with some staff members, him and his wife Anne.

He gave me precious informations about the founding years of his institute, about FORGE, EAGT and Gestalt therapy in it's early years in France and Europe.

Through him I even learned from a jubilee book of FORGE, that also the German Institute IGW, for wich I was (and still am) teaching, was an early member of FORGE – I did not know that from my own colleagues!

Serge was a founding member of EAGT, which was established 1985, representing SFG, the French National Society for Gestalt therapy, which he initiated 1981.

He was active in the EAGT Board the first years, but later focussed more on activities in EAP , FORGE and the French legizlation on psychotherapy. He always stayed a very active presenter and participant of EAGT congresses which are held every three years.

And of course EAGT and it's presidents always had a strong connection to him as registrar of EAP.

Serge has published so many articles and books about Gestalt therapy, translated in many languages, he has supported so many institutes in their starting phase, specially in Eastern Europe but also in many other countries.

He can be called one of the very important messengers for spreading Gestalt therapy and supporting its development, enriched by European contributions, all over the world. He was teaching all over the globe, which is really extraordinary.

I was impressed with what energy he still did this up to recent times. His engagement for psychotherapy and Gestalt therapy was a passion.

EAGT has honored him in September this year with honorary membership. Unfortunately Serge could not come personally to the AGM in Zurich, due to his health problems, but two of his close friends were present, recorded the ceremony and brought him his certificate back to Paris. He called me later and he did express it also in writing, how much he appreciated this honor.

Serge has lived a rich and fruitful life. So many Gestalt therapists over the whole globe will miss him. But they all are also thankful for what he gave them.

For me it was amazing to see, with how much passion he was engaged in EAP and in his teaching, but he had also having a feeling, a sense for when he had to stop. He prepared on time a successor in EAP and he felt, that his energy was going down.

I will always remember that phone call, when he told me: „My mind still wants to continue, but my body is getting weak and tired, it cannot follow my mind any more.“

Unfortunately he was right in the feeling, that the end of his life was coming. I would have wished him some more years to enjoy his family and grand children after such a full loaded life in passionate working.

Merci, Serge, thank You! We will always keep You in a good memory.

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Peter Schulthess  
President of EAGT