



# WABA NEWSLETTER

#2 March 2006

The next phase in WABA history  
opening new ways to the future



## World Watsu® Week

*We are all one Family*

### WABA CHANGES

By the Board

In the October 2005 Newsletter we informed you about the start of the process to restructure WABA into a membership organization. That is still our goal but the ending of the lease contract with the Watsu Center per October 30, 2006 and the big upcoming event, the WWW, has changed our planning time wise.

We have informed you by a communiqué, and you will read in this newsletter, how your Board is doing everything to insure that the School of Shiatsu and Massage will continue to be a learning center for the Water Family and offer classes after October 2006.

Harold Dull,  
President

Andre Schaart  
Chair

### WATSU® in the world

In this newsletter Harold writes about the biggest event ever in the history of WABA, the Worldwide Watsu Week. Given the reactions we received so far, this is going to be an event that will bring the Water Family more together than ever and will raise an immense awareness for the benefits of Watsu to the world. If you have not had the time to submit your participation, do it now. AS

### From the Family

All over the world individual family members are building beautiful new pools, organizing conferences and events, receiving awards and applying aquatic bodywork to people with special needs. See what they are doing and let your own inspiration flow. AS

### Harold around the world

Harold had already planned a trip around the Pacific to teach in Korea, Australia and New Zealand, when he was invited to Italy for the Watsu Silver Anniversary celebration on his 70th birthday. Since it would also provide an opportunity to include Israel where he had been invited to support the development of its member organization, Harold decided to include them all in his first round the world trip (detailed inside). Being one to never miss a good party I joined the very heartwarming celebration our Italian family offered Harold, Pavana and Calias (described further inside by another participant). Read and enjoy. AS

During the week of **April 21 to 28, 2007**, Watsu practitioners, students and instructors around the world will donate thousands of sessions and classes to those with special needs and other populations such as the elderly, teenagers, children, pregnant women (including classes for mothers and daughters, etc.)

Among the benefits of an annual World Watsu Week is the way it will get Watsu's message out that we are all one family, a message that results from the connection Watsu nurtures, that underlies its effectiveness in clinics and spas and the personal growth we see in classes, a message needed in this period of global unrest and divisiveness.

The media that this Week draws will show everyone that they too could learn to hold and float someone they never met before and feel the same connection they watch and hear testified to, that we truly are all one family.

The preparation for this first World Watsu Week began 15 months in advance with the start of a survey of the 8000 in 50 countries who have studied Watsu.

The enthusiasm and commitments in the responses to the survey's first emails convince us this week will be a success even if in this first year we fall short of the level of funding WABA is hiring professionals to seek.

I wish to thank Naomi Stuchiner for proposing this Week. Naomi manages the worldwide fund raising for the largest children and special need facility in Israel. Her husband, Tuvia, a teacher of Watsu in the Israeli universities, took me to her to discuss ways to raise funds for a new center in America. I immediately saw her proposal as a way to get the benefits of Watsu out to many more people than any one center could. HD (More on page 4)

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Please send your comments and or copy to our (still temporary) editor, Andre, at newsletter@waba.edu.  
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### Retreat on Kuai

Francesco Garripoli—Kahuna Valley [www.kahunavalley.org](http://www.kahunavalley.org) wrote us: "When Dr. Masaru Emoto was here a few months back for dinner enroute to Japan, he said he really liked the energy of the water at our retreat (it comes from the volcanic mountains behind us). I'm hoping to do some research with him on humans being treated in water... we'll see... and I blame Harold for this trouble he's gotten me into!"



### St Louis Aquatic Healing Center, Creve Coeur, Mi

Our long time Board member, Kathleen Christ has devoted many years of her life and an incredible amount of energy and love to develop this healing aquatic center. Not just a healing center. Her son Joe, being in the army and serving in Iraq, triggered her to an intensive study and practise in cleansing and detoxification. Check out her newest project at her website [www.supportourreturningtroops.org](http://www.supportourreturningtroops.org)



**Watsu's Italian Birthday Cake**

### Round the World

The first stop was Korea to teach a large group at the Seoul Community Reports Center where Jun Konno first introduced Watsu in 2001 and where hundreds of special needs children and adults have been helped by it. A Korean edition of the Watsu book will soon be out. Then to classes in Australia and New Zealand, where Watsu instructor Carolyn Crawford is nurturing a very effective member organization, and Italy where Linda Dehleman and the Italian Water Family threw the best party of my life and then to Israel where we helped start what should become a model WABA member organization and then to Paris (for a museum moment out of the water). *HD*

### Impression of The Italian Silver Celebration by Marcus Miller

I looked forward to my second of two Watsu 25th anniversary celebrations and wondered about what to expect. I looked forward to the opportunity to meet those many people who were not at the California celebration and were based in Europe. After landing in Milan the taking the train from Milan to Fidenza and then a short car ride to Tibiano Terme.

I was greeted by a number of people and everyone I met was warm open and friendly. Though there may have been some language barriers there was a clear communication about the intensity and love of the work. I met many people from all over Europe with the largest contingent being Italian with a few Germans, Austrians, Brits, Spaniards and other assorted ex-pats including myself the lone American apart from Harold and his family who the celebration was meant to honor. It was really an Italian affair and I began to believe that Italy had the largest concentration of Watsu practitioners in the world. Perhaps with all of the hot springs around the country that might make sense. Pool availability being the biggest impediment for most water workers.

I would have loved an extra few days to actually spend talking with more people about their experiences delivering Watsu and other water and land therapies. The brief conversations I had hinted of a bigger experience that could be discussed. But I understood that this was not the forum for that type of discussion. This was a party. And it was a great party. I take away from my experience that there are earnest water workers who are trying to bring their talents to a broader world audience.

I would love to see more celebration types of gathering that also included very specific time to discuss our personal successes and failures and ideas of where to possibly explore and expand water therapies in general. Perhaps an annual event that takes place in different part of the world. A gathering where you would collect the discussions and present then to participants and then publish the text to those that could not attend. Ultimately we are all interested in providing people with environments to nourish and heal themselves in a safe, relaxing and purposeful place. Only by sharing our experiences do I believe that we can learn more about the work and its potential

I look forward to meeting more of my water colleagues in the future.

*Marcus Miller*



## WABA “under construction”

In the first WABA Newsletter of October 2005, we wrote: “In a member based organization, members have more input into its operation including the election of its Board of Directors and of course taking a more active part in the various committees. The die is cast. Now we have to organize ourselves to accomplish this task. With your help. In this newsletter you can read how you all can participate to prepare WABA for the next phase in her history.

The Grand Design of the new WABA will be a WABA International as the umbrella organization for the individual country organizations like WABA Brazil, WABA England etc and WABA USA. Even before being told Harbin had decided to take back the Watsu Center (next November) we were moving in a direction in which we could spend more time on the Worldwide Family and less on the school. Now with the school being sold, all our attention can turn toward the Worldwide. Though for the moment preparing to leave the Watsu Center and selling the school requires our attention and our original timetable for integrating the national associations is slowed down.

In the meantime (and as a consequence to hearing the news about the Watsu Center) Harold came up with the appealing idea of the Worldwide Watsu Week. A big and also very energy absorbing event. But an idea with such high potential benefits to WABA in general and the individual members in the Water Family, that we have to give it the highest possible priority.

And ... it will fit beautiful in the preparation of the restructuring process of WABA.

An essential element in the transition process to a member organization is the bonding process of the Water Family. The recognition of the shared values, of the common goals, of the interdependency between the members. Of course practitioners and instructors have their own business and that's their main focus. But the awareness of the benefits of aquatic bodywork to the general public is the common goal. And that is also the main objective of the worldwide Watsu week.

Never in the history of WABA there has been an activity that with such a bonding capacity. Thus the logical consequence is that this WWW will be the first building block for the restructuring of WABA. The regional clusters set up for it will be a model for the networking of the National Associations. If we receive the full funding we seek, the offices our sponsors set up to co-ordinate all the activities of the WWW could also serve the member associations. AS

## Waterwork and Moneyflow an Open Space event

Full Moon weekend June 9—11, 2006 in Switzerland  
[Www.openspaceworld.org](http://www.openspaceworld.org)

## Spa Awards

Watsu Instructor Karen Reina, owner and managing director of the Mandala Spa in the Philippines, took home two top prizes. “Destination Spa of the Year” and “Spa Treatment of the Year” from the first ever Baccarat AsiaSpa Awards, held among 120 Spa's in Asia. Not only this exceptional Spa got the laurel, but also Watsu® was the highest ranked treatment of all the top Spa's in Asia. Congratulations Karen.

[Www.mandalaspa.com](http://www.mandalaspa.com)

## School Looking for a New Home

The first and largest school of Aquatic Bodywork (The School of Shiatsu and Massage) that draws students from around the world is looking for a new home.

If you are interested in purchasing the school or in providing a good home for the school when it is purchased, email us for details

[school@waba.edu](mailto:school@waba.edu)

We know of locations ready for development waiting for an investor.

Be assured the school will continue. We will inform you as soon as possible about the future class schedule and location of the school.

## Healing Dance

The WABA Board has approved a new certification program for Healing Dance. Details forthcoming.

## WABA Board of Directors 2006

These are the 2006 Board members.

*Hopefully by the next election the National AB Associations will have organized themselves to the point where their members can elect the Board.*

André Schaart—chair  
Bob McCormick  
Harold Dull—president  
Kathleen Christ  
Michael Moss  
Ron Isenstein—treasurer  
Theri Thomas—secretary  
Vickie Lewis

*A special welcome to new board member Michael Moss.*

## International Hydrotherapy Conference July 2-3

Organized by Tuvia Stuchiner and hosted within the framework of Beit Issie Shapiro's Fourth International Conference on Developmental Disabilities: Policy, Practice and Research. (Israel)

[Www.ortra.com/beitissie](http://www.ortra.com/beitissie)



# More about the World Watsu® Week

## MEDIA

Preparing for the media coverage will include the careful scheduling and spacing out of events over many pools and the recruiting of as many different populations as possible to receive sessions and be in classes. Material will be placed on the internet with navigational tools to find what is happening in Watsu around the world. At each event page there will be links to how Watsu is incorporated into regular programs at the hosting center, clinic or spa, and links to each participating watsuer's own page, and links to how Watsu has been used with the population being featured at each event.

Many celebrities, including Mel Gibson, Madonna, Philip Simore, Cherry Vanilla and Goldie Hawn, are known to have received Watsu. Those who wish to help bring its benefits to more people could provide testimonials (written and, when possible, filmed) about their own experiences. This could draw the kind of attention that will increase the interest of potential corporate sponsors.

Journalists covering the events will be invited to receive sessions themselves beforehand. We will seek to have on the last day an international broadcast to sum up all that happened during the Week.

During the Week we will be assembling as many film clips and testimonials as possible which we could make available to a filmmaker for a documentary about Watsu and the events of the Week.

## SURVEY

The first stage of the survey has been through email. In the first week over 200 (in 20 countries) have offered to volunteer sessions. More than a hundred offer pools. More than a hundred offer to help organize. \$5000 has already been pledged to help hire fund raisers and develop material. This newsletter is the second stage. The third stage will be to complete the survey by phone teams. Once all records have been updated and commitments have been entered teams can be formed for specific sites, regions, populations and tasks.

If you haven't already responded to our email, either enter [waba.edu/cate](http://waba.edu/cate) with your password and respond on your data page, or email [Watsu@waba.edu](mailto:Watsu@waba.edu) or fax or mail (to addresses on front page) responses to the questions below. Responding even if you are uncertain or unable to participate will help us complete this survey with one less phone call. Select one answer to each question.

## FUND RAISING

WABA is a 501c non-profit that can accept tax deductible donations. Donations are being pledged by members to hire fund raisers and develop material for the Week. The first task of our fund raisers is to approach multi national corporations who might wish to be aligned with WABA's mission and sponsor the Week. The budget the fund raisers present potential sponsors will include money for

1. the development of material, brochures, press kits, etc.
2. the development and staffing of offices for WABA and participating national member organizations.
3. the improvement of our internet presence and web pages, an expanded data bank of events, locations, participants, applications, etc.
4. help obtaining insurance.
5. funding of gatherings to help prepare participants.

If not enough is contributed by multi-national(s) to finance the whole Week, the fund raisers will develop strategies and material for member associations to approach local corporations and businesses.

Donations will also be welcomed from the public. In addition for funding this Week, donations can go to a pool fund to help individuals, schools, communities and clinics set up environmentally friendly warm water pools (making these more available being one of the goals of this Week).

## BENEFITS

This Week will help realize WABA's goal of making the benefits of giving and receiving Aquatic Bodywork accessible to everybody:

1. Thousands will benefit from receiving sessions during the Week or attending its introductory classes.
2. There will be an increased awareness of the benefits of Watsu among allied health professionals as well as those with conditions Watsu is known to alleviate.
3. Public understanding of the need for warm water pools will raise support for their construction
4. Practitioners and instructors will have more clients and students seeking them out.
5. Participating centers, clinics and spas will benefit from the publicity.
6. Material, film strips and databases developed for the Week will continue to be used and added to afterwards.
7. The working together will strengthen the sharing and networking of all those involved with Watsu and, in many countries, become the base of its own Aquatic Bodywork member association which could share offices being funded for the World Watsu Week.

Will you be able to volunteer sessions or classes sometime during the World Watsu Week?

no ... possibly ... sessions ... classes ... both ...

Can you provide access to a pool?

Yes ... for single sessions ... for multiple sessions ... for classes ...

Can you help organize?

Yes ... locally ... regionally ... on any level ...

If you can pledge a donation or a loan enter the amount

\$ \_\_\_\_ . As donation \$ \_\_\_\_ As loan (no money will be collected until a budget for its application is provided)

Any added suggestions will be appreciated.

For the latest information visit [www.watsu.com/worldwatsuweek](http://www.watsu.com/worldwatsuweek)