

Dear friends and colleagues:

It has been a joy and a pleasure to work with you over these many years I have been in Virginia. We moved here originally from California to help take care of my mother who is now 96 and doing fairly well.

As you may have heard, I have done some reprioritizing. In my home land of Ecuador, they call my phase of life "La Tercer Edad," (The Third Age). My third age promises to be exciting and relaxing at the same time and I am looking forward to moving forward with grace. There are lots of unknowns right now but I thought I would pass along what I know so far, especially since I know there are rumors and speculation.

Here is what I know about what I'm doing and I very much appreciate your interest:

My husband and I have bought a house in The Villages, Florida and will be moving there in August and living there most of the time; We've never lived in Florida before but the weather is very reminiscent of Ecuador; We also have family in that area so it will be nice for us and my mother to see them more regularly.

I will continue to be a partner with Gil Institute and will work remotely, attending weekly meetings virtually. This is an exciting time for Gil Institute, as you read earlier (we just got our non-profit status!), and I am very excited to help us develop and grow more and more. I am thrilled to have opportunities to get funded for clinical research. This has been one of my long-standing goals.

I will be supervising and consulting via Adobe Connect, especially in the afternoons, after my morning tennis. I am mentoring and/or supervising some of our wonderful staff (MFT residents) and will continue to talk with them weekly.

I will be working closely with my other wonderful partners, Jen Shaw, Myriam Goldin, and Heather Bryan.

I will continue to provide small trainings through Starbright Training Institute and I will be inviting other presenters to teach more regularly.

I am committed to putting on the Annual Play Therapy Conference and will return for that each year. The 2015 conference is on April 10-12 in Crystal City, at the Marriott.

I will meet all prior commitments for training in 2015 (I have a training scheduled in New Orleans and Wyoming).

I am exploring making some videotapes with a good friend of mine (Roz Heiko) who has already made an amazing tape herself, and will attempt to create some webinars.

I promise I will take care so I don't get too much sun. I will be playing more tennis, more swimming, and I will

learn golf. I'm also hoping to do musical theater.

I will be doing play therapy with my four grandchildren.

I will drive my golf cart very carefully and I will take my mother to her bridge games whenever she wants.

I will have unscheduled time in which to explore what it's like to do less work and more fun! I've always integrated fun in my life but this will reverse the percentages, I hope.

Here are the things I will NOT do:

I will no longer do "big trainings." I have done literally thousands of trainings over the last 40 years and no longer wish to travel. I also like smaller, more intimate and interactive trainings, and I will find a way to do some of those at Starbright at Gil Institute.

I will not be seeing clients for the first time in 40 years. I will explore what that's like and if I want, I may set up a little private practice later on. We'll see how it all feels.

Thank you so much for your interest and for listening. Please know that my partners and I are like-minded, committed to excellence, and invested in providing the highest quality services we can. We are now fully staffed with creative, determined, sensitive, and well-trained clinicians and they are capable of continuing the work that I have loved for years. In my opinion, this is likely the most ethical, well-trained and invested group of therapists we've ever had at Gil Institute and I am confident that the services to our community will continue and thrive.

I hope our paths will cross again and whatever age you're at, I hope your life will be as full and rewarding and play-filled as mine. Be well, Eliana