



## Transactional Analysis in Germany 2009

by Matthias Sell

It may not be a good time in our world full of crises, but it is a good time to write about transactional analysis in Germany. Why is that? Because even in this period of crisis, we have a stable and vital German transactional analysis association: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Transaktionsanalyse (DGTA). We are stable, considering the number of members, and transactional analysis as a method of psychotherapy is respectfully recognized among professionals in Germany.

This recognition seems to follow the fact that transactional analysis is recognized in Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Great Britain, and Austria. In Germany, so far, only psychoanalysis, behavioral therapy, and depth psychological procedures are accepted for reimbursement under national health insurance. Many of our transactional analysis psychotherapy colleagues work on the depth psychological platform and integrate transactional analysis into what they do. That is why even though the use of transactional analysis in various fields of application has decreased in Germany compared with the 1970s and 1980s, transactional analysis has continued to spread because the quality of the work is clear. Several universities and colleges have contracted with the DGTA to teach transactional analysis as part of their basic course of study for students in many fields (e.g., economics, education, etc.).

In the counseling field, transactional analysis concepts are applied in many social and educational institutions because of the good quality of the work done by transactional analysts. Our conference on counseling, held in Mainz last March, was well attended and impressive. It showed that in Germany we took good care to bring in young colleagues, who are now actively committed to representing transactional analysis in various fields. This is particularly important because our greatest number of members is between the ages of 38 and 50.

For conferences and symposia, we work to link transactional analysis methods to distinct topics. For example, we have arranged

*continued on page 2*

## Hello! And What Do I Say After I Say Hello as ITAA President-Elect?

by Rosemary Napper

*We are pleased to announce that the results of the latest ITAA election have been tabulated, and Rosemary Napper of the United Kingdom is the new ITAA President-elect. Our thanks to Antonio Pedreira of Brazil for also running in the election and for all those who helped to make this election a success.*

“Why did you want to be president?” In our first conversation after my election as president-elect, current ITAA President Gianpiero Petriglieri told me this is what was asked most often of him around the beginning of his term. The question is deceptively simple, as inquirers were curious about the “private roles” and personal history (Schmid, 2006) of the new president as much as they were about his vision and plans for the organization.

In this short piece I begin to answer that question for myself—and to invite you to ask more when we meet in person or virtually. My election intention to create with you a paradigm shift for our organization was published in my election statement, and I will have a regular column in *The Script* in the future in which I hope to provoke you to think creatively and to feel inspired to participate proactively in developing a future for the next decade of the ITAA.

*“I am honored to follow on from Eric Berne in the “organizational role” as the president of our international association.”*

My passion for the potential of international cross-fertilization of ways of living, ideas, and people emerged as I grew up in 1950s England. I overheard the grown-ups talk of U Thant and the United Nations while glancing at me and the other kids at play, with hope in their voices for both our futures and for a different world. Little did I know then that in Carmel, California, Eric Berne, who had done an unusual and significant amount of world travel for the times, was also responding to the impact of World War II by innovating what would become transactional analysis and totally changing his life—and mine!

From the 1960s, my family worked in several different countries and, unusually for then, took me with them. So I experienced firsthand the cultural and communication enrichment and difficulties of bringing together people and ideas from different contexts. I felt enhanced by my experiences and looked for ways of continuing and sharing such riches as I developed my “professional roles” from waitress to international marketing to teacher of English as a second language, to counseling across cultures, to providing learning and development to public service professionals and voluntary organizations, to management training and coaching, to university lecturer, to organizational development consultant and a director of small businesses.

And when in the late 1980s I looked for an in-depth, coherent framework for considering the range of services I was engaged in and to provide a way of exploring myself as the “tool” I worked with in relation to others, I found transactional analysis. I became a Certified Transactional Analyst in organizational applications, then in education focusing on adult learning and writing a book on how TA can inform the training process, and then in counseling. I was inspired by my experiences of how transactional analysis “maps” of ways of relating could inform and transform everyday life, to stimulate social change as well as individual shifts.

Now I am 56 and a transactional analysis trainer and supervisor. I am still inspired on a daily basis by the impact of transactional analysis on myself and others. And now I am honored to follow on from Eric Berne in the “organizational role” as the president of our international association. I feel excited and scared to serve such a wide range of people generating possibilities through their application of transactional analysis with an even greater number of citizens around the



world. What a privilege! Thank you for taking the risk to elect me from an election statement, perhaps without even meeting me in person—yet! I intend to network with as many members as I can over the next four years, and from now I invite you to tell me what you envision as a healthy ITAA for 2020.

Rosemary Napper can be reached at [Rosemary.Napper@TAmatters.com](mailto:Rosemary.Napper@TAmatters.com).

### REFERENCE

Schmid, B. (2006). Transactional analysis and social roles. In G. Mohr & T. Steinert (Eds.), *Growth and change for organizations: Transactional analysis new developments 1995-2006*. Pleasanton, CA: International Transactional Analysis Association.

## 1000 TA 101 Certificates Awarded in the Ukraine—2000 to Go!

### An Interview with Those Who Made It Happen

By Nadyezhda Ivanovna Spassenko

*Thomas Ohlsson, TSTA (P), is the father of transactional analysis in the Ukraine, having taught the first TA 101 in December 1997 in Pereyaslav-Khmel'nyts'ky, where 28 certificates were awarded. Godparents of transactional analysis in the Ukraine are his colleagues Roland Johnsson, TSTA (P), and Anika Bjork, TSTA (P), who taught three more TA 101s in 1998 in Sumy, Kyiv, and Rivne. On the basis of this generous volunteer teaching, enough TA contacts around the country were made that the Ukrainian Association of Transactional Analysis (UATA) could be legally registered in 2000 as a national organization.*

*At a critical point for UATA—without educational follow-up to the 101s, transactional analysis in the Ukraine was in danger of dying in the bud—a letter came from Vladimir Goussakovski, TSTA (P) (then a PTSTA), in which he offered to teach transactional analysis in our country. This was just in time to save the day. A fifth TA 101 took place in Kyiv in February 2001 and was continued with the regular training of a TA 202 group.*

*In the meantime, back in St. Petersburg, Russia, Vladimir's colleague Yelena Soboleva, then a*

*CTA (P), was preparing to become a PTSTA (P) and was willing to come to the Ukraine to teach once qualified. Word about transactional analysis was spreading, and we waited breathlessly for our second regular teacher to arrive. From 2002 until today, more TA 101s were presented, usually followed by the establishment of TA 202 groups.*

*To date—May 2009—our statistics show 1080 TA 101 certificates have been awarded, and over 1000 regular and/or one-time attendees have been in ongoing TA 202 groups. This interview is part of our celebration of these achievements, and with this introduction I would like to begin.*

**Nadyezhda Ivanovna Spassenko (NIS):** Of the 1080 TA 101 certificates awarded in the Ukraine, you, Vladimir and Yelena, have led over 850 participants to theirs. My first question to you is how do you feel about such an accomplishment, particularly in view of the fact that these 101s took place and are building up the transactional analysis community not in your own country?

**Vladimir Goussakovski (VG):** I think it is a big achievement, and at the same time, I see an even bigger achievement in the fact that after the

*continued on page 6*

# TA in Germany

continued from page 1

events such as "Transactional Analysis and Peaceful Living: TA Against Violence" and "Transactional Analysis and Art: TA and Kunst," the latter of which is being organized again for 2010 in Basel, Switzerland. Also, there are many different offerings in which transactional analysis is integrated into professional and continuing education training programs (e.g., "Transactional Analysis and Juvenile Delinquency") or in the field of education, where transactional analysis is integrated into the training. Meanwhile, there are schools in which the entire teaching staff is working with transactional analysis, including offering events using transactional analysis with parents.

Many transactional analysts work successfully in the field of management. Numerous leadership training programs are being given by transactional analysis colleagues as well as by trainers and counselors who are not members of our association but who use transactional analysis concepts in their work.

There are about 110 transactional analysis trainers in Germany and about 35 institutes in which transactional analysts work. The training groups are not as popular as they were years ago, but overall, transactional analysis receives a good deal of attention, for example, in connection with coaching. The coaching market in Germany is big; there are about 60 training centers in Germany for coaching, about half of which work with transactional analysis and about 20 of which are affiliated with the DGTA. The participants go through the basic training in transactional analysis after the TA 101 course, and around 30-40%

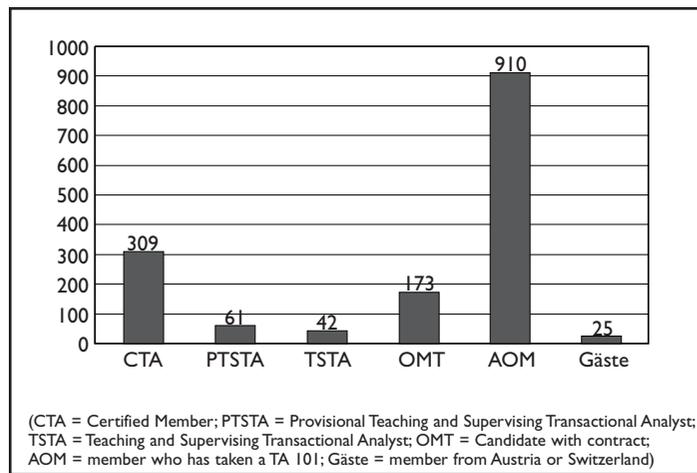


Figure 1. DGTA Membership by Category

of those go on to become certified in transactional analysis.

In Germany, we estimate that around 800-1200 individuals are in regular training, and between 35-50 of them take their CTA exams every year. One reason is that in Germany we have a good exam culture and can guarantee our candidates professional exams with high standards; feedback on the exams is accordingly quite good. Another reason for our positive transactional analysis culture is our vital ethical awareness. The ethics commission takes good care to keep our awareness of such issues stimulated by putting out ethical questions and giving workshops at conferences.

Before our large annual DGTA conference, we have a one-day conference of experts Wednesday evening through Thursday. During this time members exchange ideas about issues related to the association and thus are actively involved in shaping it. The conferences, which usually take place from Friday to Sunday, are then reserved for topics related to the content of the gathering and are attended by 350 to 800 participants.

We "wander" through the Federal Republic of Germany with our conferences. Thus, the 2009 conference will take place in the north, in the old Hanseatic city of Lübeck. In 2010 we go off to Saarbrücken, at the border with France and Luxemburg. Especially well attended are the conferences at the border with Switzerland and Austria at Lake Constance because we have additional German-speaking participants from these countries. The connection to our Swiss colleagues is marked by lively interchange and also alternating visits at trainings. We are also in good contact with colleagues in Austria; this year the educational conference on "Transactional Analysis in the Schools" will take place in Vienna. A further area of ongoing cooperation is France; DGTA has a delegate for contact with France, and France has a delegate for contact with DGTA.

In preparation for the EATA conference in Prague, 9-11 July 2010, in honor of Eric Berne's 100th birthday, many DGTA members are actively in contact with the conference team in the Czech Republic. We are looking forward to that event. Many of our colleagues have supported the spreading of transactional analysis in the eastern European countries by offering regular training there.

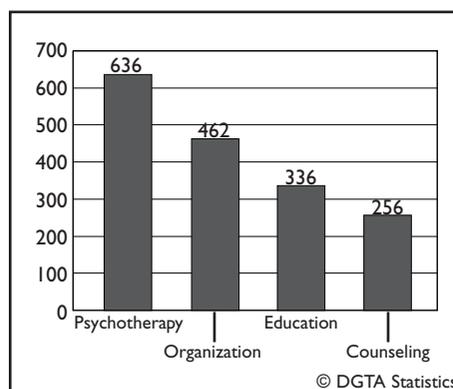


Figure 2. Fields of Activity of Transactional Analysts in Germany

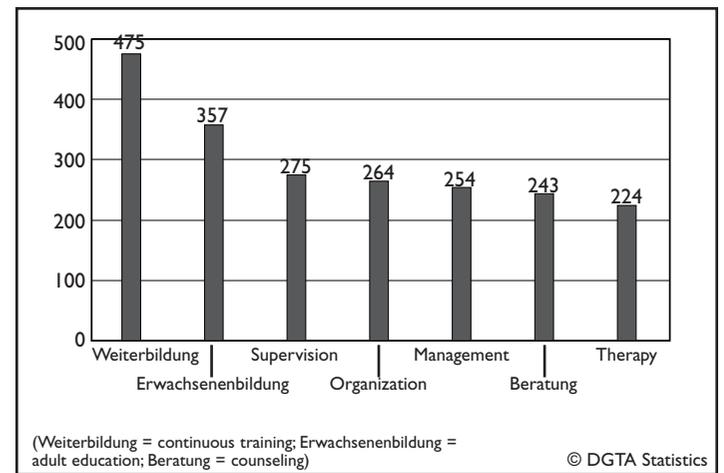


Figure 3. Subdivisions of Members According to Fields of Application

Transactional analysis is used in all fields of application in Germany, and at this time there are about 1600 transactional analysts at work (see Figure 1). Most of them work in the field of psychotherapy (Figure 2). As can be seen in Figure 3, it is apparent that many transactional analysts in Germany also play an important role in the educational field.

In addition, many members are active in various associations and organizations, for example, the assembly of all big associations in the field of counseling (DGfB, the German Association for Counselling). In this association, the profile of requirements and the standards for counseling in Germany are being discussed and evaluated. This association is important because it is the umbrella group for about 22,000 organized members. Finally, among many other associations, I want to mention the association for the organization of Continuous Training in the Federal Republic (Deutscher Verein für Weiterbildungs-Organisationen). This is an umbrella association for trainers in various fields and branches; it organizes about 5000 to 8000 trainers in Germany. Transactional analysts are active in this association, for example, in presenting a joint booth at the DVWO fair or didacta, which took place at the annual Training Fair, the biggest of its kind in Europe; there they presented their methods and activities.

There is currently an effort underway to have other psychotherapy methods (including transactional analysis), in addition to psychoanalysis and behavioral therapy, presented for recognition for statutory health insurance physicians in the

social service system. This new area, humanistic psychotherapy, would include methods such as transactional analysis, gestalt, psychodrama, and systemic therapy. This effort is being spearheaded by associations of psychologists, in which we, as transactional analysts, are also active.

I hope that, for our colleagues around the world, this article shows that we, as transactional analysts, are not only thriving in Germany and experiencing appreciation and respect from colleagues in many fields but that we are continually working to obtain recognition similar to that obtained for transactional analysis in Austria, Italy, and England. The DGTA is doing well, but to become more accepted in professional politics, we founded a second association in Germany: the professional association for transactional analysis in Germany: Bunderverband der TransaktionsanalytikerInnen in Deutschland (BVTA). This association represents the professional political interests of individual transactional analysts.

The entrepreneurial character of transactional analysis, embodied by Eric Berne, is still valid one year before his 100th birthday. This quality can be found in the long training, the concepts, and the learning culture that transactional analysts offer. Berne's orientation in the direction of autonomy through spontaneity, awareness, and intimacy in combination with responsibility is still relevant and makes sense today as it helps us to understand ourselves and each other.

Matthias Sell is chair of both DGTA and BVTA. He can be reached at [sell@inita.de](mailto:sell@inita.de).

## Call for Proposals

Dear Colleagues,

The next EATA conference is already in the preparation phase now, and it will take place in the beautiful city of Prague in the Czech Republic from

**9 July until 11 July 2010**

Please use the occasion to present your work and thinking on themes related to transactional analysis and send us a presentation proposal.

All registration and also the workshop proposals will be handled electronically this time, and you can find all the information (and forms for download) on the conference Web site at: [www.eataprague.cz](http://www.eataprague.cz).

If you have any questions or need help (or belong to that group of TA trainers who do not use the Internet), you can obtain all you need via e-mail from the addresses given on the Web site ([info@eataprague.cz](mailto:info@eataprague.cz)) or through the EATA office ([eata@gmx.com](mailto:eata@gmx.com))—or you can use the address or telephone number of the organizing agency (AMEPRA, I.t.d., EATA Prague, Spanelska, 10120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic, Tel. +420 221 180 272) or contact Marianne Rauter, the executive secretary of EATA, at Silvanerweg 8, 78464 Konstanz, Germany, Tel. +49 7531 95270).

**The deadline for workshop proposals is 31 October 2009.**

We are looking forward to meeting with you there and cocreating a wonderful TA conference celebrating the 100th birthday of Eric Berne.

—Jan Hennig and Marek Navratil, Cochairs of the Program Committee

**ITAA The Script**

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## When TA Was in Its Infancy: A Conversation with Two Eyewitnesses

by Pamela Levin

What was it like to be present when transactional analysis was in its infancy? How did Eric go about setting the foundation that would support what would become the global transactional analysis movement? Two witnesses to that time are Viola Litt Callahan, MA, now retired, who was active in transactional analysis until recently, and Margaret Frings Keyes, now a social-activist psychotherapist in San Francisco and Muir Beach, California. Through their eyes and ears, we can learn about some of the beginnings of our history.

Vi attended the first meeting of what would become the San Francisco Social Psychiatry Seminars, later called the Eric Berne Seminar of San Francisco. She met Eric when he gave a presentation at a mental health meeting she attended. She remembers, "He was tall and thin, had a long nose, was exact and thoughtful. Before and after he said something, he thought about it. He was accurate, he wanted people to get the correct, clear idea, and he was concerned that they wouldn't teach it correctly. He was very protective of his ideas in that way. He didn't care if you criticized him, but he didn't want his ideas distorted." She recalls him talking about how when he was 14 his mother had him doing the horoscopes for the newspaper in Montreal. "He didn't want anyone distorting his understanding of transactional analysis. He wanted TA information to be straightforward so that anybody could understand it,



*"TA was like a child Eric had been dreaming about all his life, and he*

*wanted it to thrive, so he was highly protective of it."*

and also truthful, not like the horoscopes he had manufactured. He never lied. He was always straightforward about the development of transactional analysis. If you think of a new father, TA was like a child he'd been dreaming about all his life, and he wanted it to thrive, so he was highly protective of it. He'd be very severe in saying 'that's not it' when someone said something that struck him as 'off the wall,' or he'd say, 'You can't say it that way' or 'that's not how it works.'"

In her recollections of the seminars, Vi remarks that "there was a lot of competition among the men. There weren't many women. There was a lot of 'I'm smarter than you are' and 'I understand this better than you do.' A lot of games, a lot of competition, subterfuge, jockeying for position. There were some rotten things people would do because they didn't want anybody else to be important or to take their place; they didn't want the competition. We used to refer to people as 'cowboys.' If you were tough, you were a 'cowboy.' We called it 'a cowboy trip.'"

Even so, Vi says, "There was always laughter in the seminars. It would have been too serious, too heavy otherwise. And we always had a lot of fun after the meetings. People didn't want to leave. We'd sit around and talk about what Eric had presented and developed ideas. We used to go out after the seminar and eat or go to the Spaghetti Factory. Once Eric and I and Pat Crossman were dancing on the tables, just having fun. We called it the 'TA Trot' because Eric couldn't dance, he just jumped up and down. He wanted to be one

of the guys, too. I think he was a lonely child when he was growing up, and he lost his father when he was 11, so that was a big event in his psyche. One time we went to a bar called the Edinburgh Castle, and there was a whole bunch of military guys from the airport. I got up and danced on the tables, and I wasn't even drinking. We had a lot of fun talking to those guys. Eric was always collecting information. He had a little notebook in his pocket and he would make notes, even when he was in a bar, he was always making notes. You could see his mind working when he was doing those notes, he was not playing now, he was working."

Vi recounts the well-known story of how when Eric was in the army, "he was processing soldiers after World War II, and there were so many that he had only 45 seconds to decide if they were crazy or not. He had already been making them show their hands, and he'd make a guess about what their work was before they got in the army. He was correct much of the time. He honed that facility into becoming a good psychiatrist. That was the beginning of his first work on intuition."

Vi remembers that "there was also a certain casualness, social intimacy about him. For example, he carried a straight pin he kept in the lapel of his jacket, and he'd take it out and pick his teeth. It was endearing, it made him seem less than perfect and made you feel that he could relax around you, that you were okay with him. He courted people he wanted around. He didn't just do small talk; he would talk about an issue or some patient and TA. I think he was getting his mind clear about what that subject was; talking to a professional person would help him think it through and at the same time raised the self-esteem of the other person. And then of course, they were included in the invitation for the fun afterward. It was called a field trip. All the cowboys and cowgirls would go on a field trip. Then we would study having fun."

As for discussions at the seminars, Vi says, "At first they centered around ego states, so the topics were about Parent, Adult, and Child. He tried out everything his clients taught him; he got it from his clients, they said it so he said it. We hadn't started talking about game theory, which developed out of his particular way of looking at behavior and people's use of language. We realized that everyday talking revealed a great deal about people's psychology. He wasn't looking at dynamics in the same way that other psychiatrists were. After a while we began to realize that transactional analysis was something that people could understand, no 50-cent words, and it was easy to explain. That was Eric's genius. Now look how many people have written books with that foundation. He'd read more than 2500 books. He loved Joseph Campbell."

Vi recalls that only about 8 or 10 people were in the seminar in the beginning. She wanted to stay because she had the feeling "he was ordained to do this, like he had a sense of a greater purpose. There was a sense of a movement getting born, and I felt privileged to be in on it." However, Vi was concerned about getting kicked out, because Eric did kick people out from time to time. For example, "Some brother of a famous psychiatrist who wrote books came and brought a guest, but he wouldn't tell Eric who the guest was . . . wouldn't tell him his right name, and that made Eric mad, and so he kicked them both out." Eric also kicked others out. Vi said it "happened in a variety of ways. Sometimes I would help smooth it over so it didn't happen. I stroke people a lot, so that helped."

Vi noticed that Eric was a record keeper, almost as if he were recording the history of something important. He always passed around a sign-up

sheet "where you were to put down your name and what time you came and left." At that time Vi was still going to school, working on her master's degree in psychology. "I was a little nobody. Everybody else was a psychologist or social worker or psychiatrist." When she noticed the sign-up paper going around, she said, "I told him I could take it home and type it up. He got very nervous, started pushing papers around on his desk rather than saying 'OK,' so I realized I had to say something fast before he refused. So I said, 'I'll take the original and give you the copy,'" so what could he say? That's how I became the first social secretary of the Social Psychiatry Seminars of San Francisco. That was like a promotion for me. I became somebody. I became visible. I stayed invested because it was so stimulating."

Later, when people came from Chicago, Vi would make the connection with them, meeting them and teaching them basic TA concepts and tips based on the tapes of groups they'd brought. Eric would do this too, if he listened to their tapes. She used to say, "Eric, come and say hello to so and so," and when they were leaving, she'd say, "Eric, come and say good-bye." As she puts it, "I feel I was



*"Berne was fun to be with, both loyal and devoted as a friend, but he seldom showed any hint of intellectually disarmed feelings."*

instrumental in the success of the seminars at this time because Eric used to play 'Kick-out.' If somebody said the wrong thing in the group or something he didn't like or something that was a put-down, he would ask them to leave and not come back."

"When we'd start the seminar, he'd come from the kitchen, maybe having had a drink of water, and he'd smile and sit down. The chair that he sat on had a spring that was out, and it poked you when you sat. I don't know why he never got it fixed. He never wore his jacket in the seminar; it was a more relaxed atmosphere to him than when he was seeing patients. He really enjoyed having all those people there. He was a great host. He would say, 'You can eat anything in the refrigerator except my two eggs' (which were for his breakfast). He had a great sense of humor and was friendly and open, but I also felt like he needed to be taken care of." Eric would encourage people when they had a good idea, and sometimes he'd take those ideas and enlarge on them. He encouraged Claude to go away to school and Barbara Rosenfeld to become a doctor.

Margaret Frings Keyes witnessed the newborn days of transactional analysis when she met Eric Berne in the fall of 1956 and he invited her to attend his seminar. Their first meeting took place when he presented his theory of transactional analysis at a noon lecture at Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco. She describes Eric as "tall and skinny with tufted hair, resembl[ing] the comedian Danny Kaye." Afterward, Margaret told him it was the first time she had laughed at any psychoanalytic thought. "I like you too," he said. "Come over to my place on Sacramento Street—the back side of Grace Cathedral—next Tuesday night. A bunch of us get together each week to talk about this stuff." So began Margaret's 3-year association with the small group of psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers in Eric's apartment on Nob Hill.

From her perspective, Margaret noticed that "Eric acknowledged each member of the group in his published books. He mocked Carl Rogers-style groups, which produced 'feelings as if for a National Feeling Show.'" She knew that Eric "had been kicked out of the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute and was determined to prove to that enclave the usefulness of his ideas, which avoided sickness labels." "Eric built a profitable training empire by cultivating the parapsychology agencies with training budgets—for probation officers, ministers, school counselors, any group that could ante up."

Margaret considers his least known book, *The Structure and Dynamics of Organizations and Groups*, to be the most interesting. It was like anatomy and physiology, the skeleton and the muscular processes of life in real time. She remembers "something Berne did not write, but talked about one night, was the creation of institutions. There is a saying attributed to Carl Jung, that 'an institution is the lengthening shadow of one man.'" She considers Eric's account the tightest possible description of the pattern behind all institutions. "He understood the role of the Euhemeri (e.g. Jesus, Freud, Karl Marx) who start a movement: The Apostles (Peter et al., Otto Rank, Stalin) who collect the sayings and start organizing training institutes; the Heretics (Judas, Carl Jung, Trotsky) who develop alternative points of view; the Canon of Approved Scripture and Commentary (The New Testament, the Psychoanalytic Journals, The Daily Worker) largely done by students of the Apostles; and the continuing interpretations, which provide a livelihood for graduate students and instructors down the years."

Margaret notes that Eric "charted the formal and informal lines of power influence and taught his trainees how and when to use them." She was also learning the principles of neighborhood community organizing that Saul Alinsky was developing in Chicago, and she points out that Eric used these lines of power for his own purposes. "For example, any hospital has a natural conflict of power interests between lay administrators and the medical staff. Skilled bureaucrats exploit this intuitively." Margaret used them as well. She got Eric into the University of California at the Medical Center in San Francisco by requesting him as her consultant to do group therapy in the Psychosomatic Clinic. It was an administrative use. Psychiatric residents, hearing of his unorthodox methods, could, and did, attend their sessions. She recalls, "Berne's empire eventually extended to thousands of people, and finally went worldwide."

Margaret remembers that at the end of the seminar, the attendees "each always left a dollar in the basket for their adopted Greek orphan, Can-You-Turn-This-Page-George. Can-You-Turn-This-Page got his name from the phrase under a pitiful child photo, part of an ad campaign to sponsor foreign children in need." She remarks, "Even their own heartfelt gestures were couched in flip language by these therapist-iconoclasts who took on the psychoanalytic establishment." She further reports that after the discussions, "the group usually drank beer; sometimes they went out to play in North Beach."

Margaret eventually applied for a National Institute of Mental Health doctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago. Eric's recommendation was key to her acceptance, and she was granted an NIMH fellowship that covered room, board, tuition, and a \$20,000 stipend for 2 years of study. Eric's intuition was right that Margaret would become a contributor. She has since taught and written extensively on crisis in the life cycle and family legacy questions. She conducts

continued on page 7

## Nominations Sought for ITAA Awards

The ITAA invites you to consider nominating a worthy recipient for the **2010 Eric Berne Memorial Award (EBMA)**. The following information and materials must be submitted to the EBMA Committee in care of the ITAA office. All documents must be submitted by e-mail in electronic form (Microsoft Word or Acrobat PDF).

1. **Name(s) of author(s)** nominated
2. **Publication citation:** Full reference for journal article, book, or publication in which the contribution being nominated has been published
3. **Area of contribution:** Specify one of the following categories as the area in which you think the most significant contribution has been made: (a) theory, (b) research, (c) applications, or (d) other areas not covered by these.
4. **A brief title for the contribution:** For example, the concept in theory, a descriptive title for the research project, the specific practice application, or a title for some other relevant area
5. **A nominators' statement** (1500 words maximum) supporting the nomination as an original and highly significant contribution to transactional analysis in the designated area. This statement must include discussions of the following:
  - The originality and innovation of the contribution within transactional analysis
  - The relationship to previous work in transactional analysis and related theories or fields of application, including research where applicable
  - Evidence of the impact the contribution has had on the development of the field of transactional analysis
  - Any other statements about the contribution that need to be considered by the committee in the opinion of the person(s) making the nomination

Each nomination needs to be supported by a single nominators' statement. If more than one individual is making the nomination, the nominating group will prepare a common statement and select a nominators' representative.

6. **Individual, group, or organization making the nomination:** Please supply the name, address, telephone numbers, fax numbers, and e-mail address of the nominator (or nominators' representative) the EBMA committee may contact if additional information or material is required to consider the nomination fully.

7. **Copies of the publication(s):** One electronic copy of the article(s) or book chapter(s) in which the contribution being nominated appears must accompany the nomination. If the article or book chapter was written in a language other than English, then an English translation must be included, along with the publication(s) in the original language. No more than three articles and/or book chapters can be submitted.

8. **Notification of the nominee:** It is the responsibility of the person(s) making the nomination for the award to notify the author(s) of his or her intention to do so and to provide him or her with a copy of the written materials submitted to the EBMA Committee. The nominator is to verify to the committee that he or she has done so either by submitting a copy of the letter to the nominee or a statement to that effect. Without this verification, the nomination will not be accepted, except in those instances in which the award would be made posthumously.

9. **Unpublished material and work published after December 2007** are not eligible for nomination at this point.

*The deadline for Eric Berne Memorial Award nominations is 1 December 2009.*

**The Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award** was established to recognize ITAA members who have made significant, enduring contributions to humanity in keeping with the ideals and ethics of the ITAA. These contributions are primarily seen as activities that promote the welfare of humankind, especially through the alleviation or elimination of pain and suffering. ITAA members who make such contributions often do so at the cost of personal risk and/or sacrifice. The humanitarian activities may form a life-long pattern or be expressed in a single, widely noted occurrence. *The deadline for the Capers Award is 1 January 2010.*

**The Muriel James Living Principles Award** honors ITAA members who have advanced the growth of transactional analysis by personal example as well as by contributions of an exceptional and lasting nature. Personal example involves consistently living the principles of transactional analysis, which includes, but is not limited to, clear Adult thinking, joyful creativity, compassionate ethics, and a lack of gaminess in transactions with others. Such a person models egalitarian relationships and promotes an "I'm OK, You're OK" atmosphere in both professional and personal arenas. The nominee will have demonstrated commitment, concern, and caring for both individuals and the world community and will be active in the international advancement of the principles of transactional analysis either professionally or personally. *The deadline for the James Award is 1 January 2010.*

**The Robert and Mary Goulding Social Justice Award** was established by the ITAA Board of Trustees to honor the contributions of Bob and Mary Goulding and other ITAA members who have contributed to others in the world through the application and advancement of rededication theory, therapy, and principles.

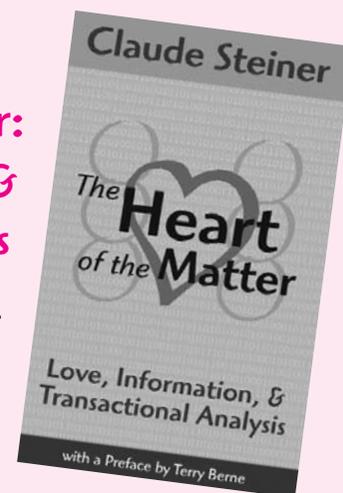
The Goulding Social Justice Award is designed to recognize individuals whose focus has been the advancement of humankind through utilizing the core principles of rededication theory in their personal and professional lives. These core principles include: self-determination, personal responsibility, direct action, and affirming relationships.

Nominees will have contributed, in their own way, by any or many of the following activities: disclosing unfairness, challenging injustice, confronting perpetrators, questioning values that support injustice, enabling understanding and respect, encouraging equalitarian values, and facilitating awareness of institutionalized injustice. *The deadline for the Goulding Social Justice Award is 1 January 2010.*

Newest Release from TA Press

## The Heart of the Matter: Love, Information, & Transactional Analysis

by Claude Steiner



This 280-page book was written from the perspective of a writer who has participated in the development of transactional analysis from its earliest days to the present and has witnessed TA's evolution from a weekly gathering of a dozen of Eric Berne's admirers half a century ago to a worldwide movement of deeply egalitarian and democratic principles involving thousands of adherents.

*The Heart of the Matter* is dedicated to all the people who are fascinated by transactional analysis and want to understand the heart-centered, information-based perspective developed by the author. Love, strokes, the stroke economy, cooperation, power abuse, and an anthropological analysis of how our hierarchical power system evolved are explored in depth. The crucial roles of the Child, the Adult, and the two Parents—Nurturing and Critical—are illuminated.



Steiner synthesizes in one brief and readable text his extensive elaborations on the theory of scripts, games, and strokes, while maintaining faith with Berne's core concepts: contracts; the universal OK existential position; crisp, understandable theory and rhetoric; effective, information-based practice; and the analysis of transactions between ego states. (ISBN: 978-0-89489-008-6)

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Any ITAA member may suggest another member for the Capers, James, or Goulding award by submitting in writing a detailed nomination addressed to the vice president of operations. Please submit the nominee's name along with a narrative account of the reasons the individual deserves recognition, attaching all relevant documentation.

For these awards to be meaningful, we need you to consider who within the ITAA is deserving of the association's highest honors and to let us know. Please submit nominations for any of these awards to the ITAA office. We look forward to hearing from you.

# MEMBERS' FORUM

## Further Thoughts on Research

Dear Editor,

In the May-June 2009 issue of *The Script* there was an interesting discussion about Elizabeth Khalil's (2009) article about her research project into the effectiveness of transactional analysis. In his comments about her work, Claude Steiner cited Novey's (2002) research study replicating the *Consumer Reports* research. Novey's study investigating client satisfaction with TA therapy was a groundbreaking and significant piece of TA research. It is, nevertheless, flawed in two particular ways that need to be acknowledged.

In his earlier study (Novey, 1999), it is important to note that clients returned their satisfaction questionnaires to their therapists rather than anonymously posting them to a researcher. This is a significant difference between Novey's study and the one done by *Consumer Reports*. It is highly likely that some clients may well have inflated their sense of satisfaction with their therapy in order to "be nice" to their therapist. It is also likely that some dissatisfied clients would not want to hand their questionnaires back to their therapists and may well have simply not completed the survey, thus providing the study with data that might be missing important negative feedback data that would provide balance. In light of this, we need to moderate Novey's 1999 findings accordingly, and we must wonder whether TA therapy would score significantly higher than any other therapy in an independently managed replication study.

In Novey's (2002) second study, the issue of "being nice" was addressed by having respondents mail their completed questionnaires to a neutral address. Certainly in Novey's second study, respondents showed higher rates of satisfaction for TA therapy than they had from the other categories used in the *Consumer Reports* studies. Improvement in presenting symptom rates for TA therapy was 67% compared to the next highest category, which obtained 52% improvement in presenting symptoms.

Nevertheless, we need to be cautious about interpreting Novey's (2002) results partly because the

248 clients from his first study were included in his second, which could well have had an impact on his findings, possibly skewing them in a more positive direction. In addition, although Novey used the *Consumer Reports* data, the comparisons in the latter are between nondifferentiated groups of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, marriage counselors, and physicians, regardless of their adherence to any particular modality. In contrast, Novey, of course, was dealing with a particular modality across all professional groups. Thus, in this sense, Novey's studies and the *Consumer Reports* study do not compare like with like.

I agree that Novey's two studies are hugely important to us as transactional analysts, but in my view, they are only a starting point. Client satisfaction reports are important, but they represent only one type of research data. What is missing in the transactional analysis research literature is efficacy research, and it is precisely that kind of research that we so desperately need if we are to obtain the recognition that we know we deserve. It is not enough in today's world to say "we know this works, and that should be enough." To me, it is abundantly clear that the evidence base for transactional analysis is, in fact, scant, and that IS a scientific fact, whether we like it or not.

On the subject of transactional analysis being superior to other approaches, there is absolutely no evidence to support this claim. Repeated meta-analyses suggest that there is little variance in therapeutic approaches, and therefore there is no reason to think that transactional analysis is superior or, for that matter, inferior to any other approach (see Wampold, 2001). It is believed that specific therapeutic approach only contributes to 15% of the variance in outcomes (Asay & Lambert, 1999). Because transactional analysis has relatively few techniques that are unique to TA, again, there is little reason to suspect that TA is superior or inferior to other approaches.

Certainly, transactional analysis is a grossly underresearched psychotherapeutic approach—something we need to address as a community. Until we have more solid research-based evidence to support our claims for the efficacy of transactional analysis, I don't think we are in a

position to make claims about its superiority or to decry statements that our "evidence base is scant" as being unscientific when, patently, that is not the case.

Mark Widdowson, Glasgow, Scotland

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## 1000 TA 101

continued from page 1

101s, many people began to take part in ongoing courses leading to certification in transactional analysis. More important than the courses that have taken place is the goal of the Ukraine having its own teachers of TA so that the process that we have begun can continue. After all, I am a guest here. I am very glad that I am invited to come here, and I understand that this is just a start for the Ukraine. I will be happy when the Ukraine has its own teachers, just as I am happy that there is, as of July of this year, the first Certified Transactional Analyst in the country.

**Yelena Soboleva (YS):** I think that it is you who has done the really big job. You started with a small group and now you have a national transactional analysis community. As a community you know where you are and what your next step is. I agree with Vladimir that the next step is for you to establish your own trainers and to organize your own national training network.

**NIS:** Transactional analysis came to the Soviet Union while it was still intact, and you were both professionally already established in that setting. How did it happen that you became interested in TA?

**VG:** For me it was a case of chance. I was interested in different approaches to understanding people and in different modalities. I became interested in transactional analysis because many TA teachers came to St. Petersburg, and I liked them. They invited me to continue my studies in the United Kingdom, and at that time I decided “why not TA? It’s an interesting approach.” For me it was also important that transactional analysis has an international and a European association that supports new national TA communities in development and growth. Our transactional analysis community in St. Petersburg received a good deal of support from EATA and personally from many trainers who came to teach on a volunteer basis, for we simply couldn’t pay them. I’m glad that it happened this way.

**NIS:** Was there some dissatisfaction with your then profession that you decided to explore other possibilities?

**VG:** Yes, I had already decided to change my profession from physics and mathematics to psychology, and I studied psychology at the university. But it was a very academic course, and when people asked me how to solve problems, I did not know how to answer. It was then that I decided that I had to study something more. And so the answer came with transactional analysis.

**YS:** My answer is not very original. I came to transactional analysis also by chance. I met a person who was very involved in TA. She was very enthusiastic and I became interested. At that time I was working with people who wanted to stop using drugs and alcohol. This was not difficult work, but it was not easy either. I wanted to figure out how I could help the leader of this group and also how to help codependent individuals



Yelena Soboleva



UATA President Nadyezhda Ivanovna Spassenko (center) proudly presenting recipients of 1000th TA 101 certificate to Liudmyla Pins'ka (right) and Oksana Prokopchuk (left), who got them started on their second thousand TA 101 certificates with the 1001st.

who were relatives of or in other special relationships with the dependent persons. My first meeting with transactional analysis was exciting and interesting, and I became part of the first group to train. I decided to become a psychologist professionally. I saw all of this as a way to help myself, too.

**NIS:** So, transactional analysis sort of dovetailed with what you were already doing.

**YS:** Yes, and also, because we were living in the Soviet system, transactional analysis ideas were especially attractive, for example, the idea that every person is OK. This was quite different from Soviet values. Of course, we were told that we were all OK, but in real life it was absolutely different, so I was interested to see what it would be like if every person really was OK. I wanted to see how it is possible for every person to be OK. And I am still interested in this!

**NIS:** In those days, when these trainers were coming to—Leningrad at that time, right?—and I was reading about all this in *The Script*, I remember being even a little jealous of the amount of volunteer TA teaching that was going on in Russia. What about the Ukraine, I thought. Aren’t we as important? Well, in those days they didn’t even know that there was a country called “the Ukraine”! As you were preparing for your PTSTA (P) status, what were you thinking in terms of where you would make use of your new qualifications?

**VG:** Actually, my first idea was about Ukraine! (We all laugh.)

**NIS:** How come?

**VG:** Because there was no transactional analysis here at that time, and for me it would be easy to work here because I could work in Russian, since most people understand this language. So, I made my offer and it was accepted. I am very glad about this and after all these years I am still glad.

**NIS:** We’re completing your eighth year with us.

**VG:** Now I feel myself a bit Ukrainian.

**NIS:** Well, I’m glad we were in your thoughts way back then.

**YS:** For me it was different. My father was born in the Ukraine, but I did not have an idea about teaching there. I thought I would work in Russia. I had a small group in Pskov with which I planned to continue. Also, I thought I could work with Trudi Newton inasmuch as she was my principle supervisor. When you invited me to teach in the Ukraine, I thought, “How interesting! Both of my supervisors—Mary Cox and Trudi Newton—travel a lot. Maybe I can travel a lot in this work, too.” It was not a “hot potato” they were passing on, but a positive tradition. You might call it a legacy that they passed on to me.

**NIS:** This is most interesting. It speaks to my next question to you. TA 202 groups in the Ukraine are located all around the country and often require overnight travel to get to. We consider your willingness to travel and then teach

after a night on a bus or a train—over and over again—to be nothing less than heroic. How do you see this situation in terms of how it fits into your own lives?

**VG:** I do like traveling, and that is one reason for my decision to teach here. I also got this travel “hot potato” from Mary Cox, who traveled a lot. Now I travel not only to the Ukraine. I teach in Armenia, and I have led workshops in Kazakhstan and Byelorussia. I like to see people and cultures that are new to me. All this is interesting and a challenge. I learn a lot this way.

**NIS:** Didn’t you teach in Alma Ata? That’s Uzbekistan, isn’t it?

**VG:** No, Alma Ata is in Kazakhstan. I don’t teach there now, but my wife, Tatyana Sizikova, continues to teach there.

**NIS:** How about you, Yelena?

**YS:** In general, traveling is interesting, but sometimes it is difficult instead. I have learned a lot in the course of it. This traveling has been a journey to myself. It is not only about my professional development. It is about my spiritual development as well. This is why it has been a challenge. How can I use it? How can I use the obstacles as a means to develop myself, my knowledge, my intuition, my human qualities?

**NIS:** Yes, you really have set yourself a challenge! Our TA 202 groups differ greatly one from another. Four have completed 4 years of training, and some of the participants are now regularly attending the Professional Excellence Workshops; some groups are approaching their third or fourth year of training, some are still in their first year of training, some have wilted on the vine for now, and some have not even started after the TA 101. What is your thinking with respect to such a picture?

**VG:** I’m glad that this process has so many layers. It suggests a good prognosis for the development of TA here. I, myself, like especially to work with experienced practitioners who are working their way toward the CTA exams, but I also like to have an overview of the whole process, to see how participants in the seminars just start learning about transactional analysis, then how they begin to apply what they know in their work, how they learn from their mistakes and acquire new skills, then how they become proficient in the application of TA. I feel very good to be part of this process.

**YS:** I think it’s like raising a child. Some children grow up easily, some don’t want to grow up but want to stay with their relatives. Of course, I am not a relative to my groups, but I am interested to see how the participants grow as individuals in the course of the training, how they become more and more who they truly are as professionals. Some participants just touch the subject lightly, but some decide to become Certified Transactional Analysts. This process is most interesting to observe and be part of. I am happy to support each one who sees this training as a significant part of his or her life’s journey.

**NIS:** I hear that you are similar in how you see the training process. How does your teaching in the Ukraine fit into your professional plans for the future?

**VG:** I plan to continue teaching here . . . but not forever. It is not only because I am a human being who is getting older. It is because I expect that soon there will be Ukrainian trainers who will do this job, and I am willing to accompany them on their journey to it.

**YS:** For me it is most interesting to maintain relationships with professionals. That is why I am here. It might be a different way to maintain such relationships since my idea is to support those who are planning to stand for their CTA exams. I also would like to explore the possibility of an international transactional analysis conference or other such joint TA gathering that would include the Ukraine. I’m thinking about such possibilities.

**NIS:** After every 3 weeks at home, each of you sets out on an overnight trip to the Ukraine to teach transactional analysis. What positive rewards for this effort do you receive besides payment for the actual teaching time?

**VG:** I see a lot of enthusiasm in the eyes of my students, and I see the changes they are making both personally and professionally. Also, the idea that transactional analysis is establishing in a country where it was not before—this is my extra payment.

**YS:** I would like to add that the movement forward of my students is a big bonus for me as well. Also, as I said before, the opportunity to teach here was a personal challenge for me, and I see that I have changed with this experience. I have grown professionally as well, and I see this as my extra benefit.



Vladimir Goussakovski

**NIS:** Do you have any other thoughts or feelings you would like to share about your Ukrainian TA experience?

**VG:** I just want to say that I am glad this whole experience is part of my life.

**YS:** And I would like to say “Good luck! And keep going!”

**NIS:** Thank you for bringing us to the celebration of our “first thousand,” of which this interview is a part!

*Nadyezhda Ivanovna Spassenko can be reached at a/s 12, Pereyaslav-Khmel’nyts’kyi, Kyivs’ka oblast’ 08402, UKRAINE; e-mail: nadyezhda@spassenko.relc.com.*

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# Some Reflections on Being

by Nancy Porter-Steele

The omelet was especially good today. The hand poured in just the right amount of cream, shook in just the right amount of salt and pepper. The stove produced just the right amount of heat. The butter sizzled just loudly enough to be heard at the right moment, so the pan was taken off the heat and allowed to stand just the amount of time it took to free the delicious light crust. "Umami," the Japanese say of the special flavor. Sounds like "yummy," eh?

These musings came to mind recently after reading Bill Cornell's (2008) book, *Explorations in Transactional Analysis: The Meech Lake Papers*, published last year by TA Press. It is a volume rich in many dimensions.

Cornell writes of the experience of psychotherapy from several points of view, and he gives considerable attention to psychoanalysis, as it was in past decades, as it has developed more recently, and also as it is being revisited by transactional analysts as they explore the ideas of relational transactional analysis. These sections especially brought forth some concerns for me.

This is a big and powerful book, both ranging widely and going deeply. Reading it, I experienced the necessity to touch into many contradictions in theories and methods of psychotherapy and other change processes, both those that Cornell discusses and others that I have learned, practiced, taught, and supervised. Two of these contradictions are in presuppositions usually accepted by most of us. One is that there truly exists such a thing as a "self." The various presuppositions about the "unconscious" are another. As a result of being stimulated by Cornell's book, I offer the following comments, returning to the omelet for a start

There is no "self" making the omelet—or writing this paper. A human being—like any being, like any so-called "entity" of any kind—is a process, continually changing and not separate from all the rest of the processes, both those we are aware of and those we are not. This is both a phenomenological reality and a physical/energetic reality (Laszlo, 2003). I regret having to use pronouns, because they solidify aspects of process as if they are separate. And that is part of our big problem. Without pronouns, and nouns, the firming up—by boundaries of thought—of parts of process that cannot really be bounded, it would be impossible to say anything. Thus, habitually, we solidify and reify our "selves."

Reifying our "selves" is the fundamental source of suffering. Again, this is a phenomenological reality, not a theory. Who/what we are at base is discoverable by anyone fortunate enough to be taught correctly how to meditate and who is able to persist in practicing meditation. Kalu (1986) says,

The realization of mind [is] the province of one's own awareness; it is properly understood only in one's own awareness and experience, not in someone else's description. Primordial Awareness is the direct and authentic experience of the mind as empty, clear and unimpeded, as dynamic and intelligent. This can only be verified through personal experience and the use of one's own intelligence. (p. 111)

Lama Norlha (as cited in Kalu, 1986) explains: "Confused mind posits the View of a Self, Pride (thinking 'I'), Attachment to a Self, and Ignorance. The mind with these four emotional afflictions is known as the 'Emotionally afflicted mind'" (p. 172). "Although we think 'This is my body, my speech, my mind,' it is not so; such thoughts are only obscurations" (p. 173).

In the meditative traditions that follow the teachings of the Buddha, the "emotionally afflicted mind" is also called "the cloudy consciousness" or "the seventh consciousness." The first five

consciousnesses are the sense consciousnesses, and the sixth is the thinking consciousness. These, again, are not theoretical but are phenomenological descriptions, direct experience, verifiable by meditation practice.

The deep meaning of "I'm OK, You're OK" is what Kalu calls "Primordial Awareness" (Porter, 1981). Other widely used terms are "basic goodness," "basic healthiness," and "basic sanity." This is basic in the sense that it exists without being created, needs no structuring at all, and is not dependent on being contrasted with "badness," etc.

The realization of primordial awareness comes after getting past attachment to the experiences of the cloudy consciousness, results in freedom from suffering, and also brings along the possibility of awareness of physiological processes as demonstrated by yogis who can keep their bodies warm in freezing temperatures while wearing only a thin cotton cloth (Epstein, 1998, pp. 166-167). Lipton (2005) has pointed out that every one of the approximately 50 trillion cells in the human body has a membrane that functions in

*"Exploring, analyzing, empathizing, and otherwise dwelling in this aspect of experience is likely to strengthen the cloudiness rather than to clear it."*

the same way as a computer chip, continually and instantaneously receiving and transmitting information. Apparently, stabilizing the experience of primordial awareness brings openness to these communications and the ability to relate directly with them.

These yogis are not a different species from the rest of us. They have simply practiced meditation as taught in the tradition in which they are trained. One conclusion from the available information is that most of what we label "ego" is not useful but is a blockage to full awareness. All the ego a person needs is the ability to experience being a center of awareness and an initiator of action.

From the time I began practicing meditation in 1976—already experienced in transactional analysis and other change processes—I have been faced with the contradiction (which I have not previously faced head-on) that most of these theories and methods are based on some version of using the sixth consciousness (thinking mind) to analyze and try to change the seventh, cloudy mind—a procedure that is unfortunately likely to add energy to the manifestations of the cloudy mind rather than moving the person toward the discovery of primordial awareness.

In particular, the Freudian unconscious, as it is often described, seems identical to the experience of the cloudy consciousness. Exploring, analyzing, empathizing, and otherwise dwelling in this aspect of experience is likely to strengthen the cloudiness rather than to clear it. Other aspects that we tend to classify as "unconscious," including physiological functions, have been shown to be subject to intentional control by experienced meditators like the yogis just cited, thus they are not truly "unconscious" but simply not in awareness to most of us.

There are other ways in which we use the language and the procedures of our work that tend to enhance rather than release, reduce, dissolve, or otherwise free us from blockages to experiencing basic, clear mind. Even the language of "ego states," so fundamental to transactional analysis, prickles with problems. Yet I think TA is less burdened with problems of this sort than are many theories and methods aimed at change.

Back to Cornell's writings: If you have not yet acquired his book, I strongly recommend that

you do so. In some chapters he generously shares his heart, allowing a deep personal feel of his experiences as a man intensely engaged in life and work and in the world. For example, he writes to his son Noah about Noah's near-death at birth: "Thank you for fighting, for living, for reminding me of what matters. Sometimes I forget. Keep reminding me, please." And he says further, "I realized, again, that my work, in its essence, is that of teaching and reminding people of what matters" (pp. 253-254).

What he says of the writings of Glen Gabbard applies to my experience of reading Cornell: "While I do not always agree with him, his writing always causes me to think and challenge my own frame of reference" (p. 272). And, after thinking, let go of thinking and experience being.

Nancy Porter-Steele, PhD, is a Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (psychotherapy) and a former editor of the Transactional Analysis Journal. She lives and works in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, and can be reached at [steele@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:steele@ns.sympatico.ca).

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*Explorations in Transactional Analysis is available online at: [www.itaa-net.org](http://www.itaa-net.org).*

## EXAM CALENDAR

Exam	Exam Adm.	Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
CTA Exams	BOC . . . . .	24 Sep 2009 . . . . .	Calicut, Kerala, India . . . . .	24 Jun 2009
	COC . . . . .	24-25 Sep 2009 . . . . .	Belgrade, Serbia . . . . .	1 June 2009
	COC . . . . .	30 Sep-1 Oct 2009 . . . . .	London, UK . . . . .	1 Jun 2009
	COC . . . . .	13 Nov 2009 . . . . .	Germany . . . . .	1 Aug 2009
	COC . . . . .	13 Nov 2009 . . . . .	Paris, France . . . . .	1 Aug 2009
	BOC . . . . .	21 Nov 2009 . . . . .	Sydney, Australia . . . . .	21 Aug 2009
	COC . . . . .	7-8 Apr 2010 . . . . .	United Kingdom . . . . .	1 Jan 2010
	COC . . . . .	8-9 Jul 2010 . . . . .	Prague, Czech Republic . . . . .	1 Mar 2010
	BOC . . . . .	11 Aug 2010 . . . . .	Montreal, Canada . . . . .	10 May 2010
TSTA Exams	COC . . . . .	13 Nov 2009 . . . . .	Germany . . . . .	1 May 2009
	COC . . . . .	13 Nov 2009 . . . . .	Paris, France . . . . .	1 May 2009
	COC . . . . .	7-8 Apr 2010 . . . . .	United Kingdom . . . . .	1 Oct 2009
	COC . . . . .	8-9 Jul 2010 . . . . .	Prague, Czech Republic . . . . .	1 Jan 2010
	BOC . . . . .	11 Aug 2010 . . . . .	Montreal, Canada . . . . .	10 Feb 2010
CTA Written	All Regions . . . . .	Your choice . . . . .	Submit to Regional Exam Coordinator after paying \$50 fee to T&C Council	Your choice
TEW	. . . . .	18-19 Sep 2009 . . . . .	Calicut, Kerala, India . . . . .	27 May 2009
	. . . . .	8-10 Nov 2009 . . . . .	New Orleans, USA . . . . .	8 July 2009

\*COC CTA exam candidates who are doing the COC written case study must submit it no later than six months before the oral exam date. Details/application available from the COC Language Group Coordinators.

**NOTE: Exams subject to availability of examiners/exam supervisors.** BOC not responsible for expenses incurred when unavailability of examiners/exam supervisors causes exams to be canceled or postponed. To be an examiner for an ITAA/BOC exam, examiners must be at least a CTA for a CTA exam or a TSTA for a TSTA exam.

**To arrange to take a BOC exam,** contact the T&C Council, 2186 Rheem Dr., #B-1, Pleasanton, CA 94558-2775, USA. Note: COC people sitting for BOC exams must forward the equivalent of the EATA fee to the T & C Council office. **To arrange to take a COC exam,** contact your EATA Language Coordinator. Check with the EATA office or the EATA News for the name of the appropriate Language Group Coordinator. **TSC Training Endorsement Workshop fee:** \$450 ITAA members/\$600 non-ITAA members payable in US dollars to T&C Council, c/o the T & C Council office, 2186 Rheem Dr., #B-1, Pleasanton, CA 94558-2775, USA. **COC Training Endorsement Workshop:** to take a COC TEW, contact the European TEW Coordinator, c/o the EATA office.

## EATA Gold Medal Awarded to Matthias Sell

**O**n 2 July 2009, during the EATA trainers' meeting in Rome, Matthias Sell was awarded EATA's highest honor, the Gold Medal. We congratulate Matthias and are presenting here an edited version of his acceptance speech.

Dear Mrs. President Maria Teresa Tosi, dear board members, thank you very much to all of you here. I am glad and I feel very much honored by this award, the Gold Medal of EATA.

When the decision was taken in March to give me the award, the board members invited me for lunch, during which they told me of their decision. They had been wondering if they should tell me then or wait until July so it would be a surprise during this trainers' meeting. Believe me, it was a good decision to tell me in March. It was a surprise then, and I am thankful for all the time between March and now to enjoy receiving this appreciation and honor.

I was curious how it would feel today, so I was waiting for this "surprise" with full awareness. And I am still surprised today by all the warmth and kindness coming from your side. I feel honored for my efforts and engagement working as an EATA officer, and I want to share this recognition with my wife, because without her support, warmth, and feedback, I would not have been able to spend all this time for a great and wonderful idea. I want to share also this honor with my secretary, Ingrid Schwarz, who is also so engaged with EATA.

In addition, I am glad to feel honored for an attitude about which I want to speak. It is an attitude of a transactional analyst, on the one hand, and a European citizen, on the other. For me, being a transactional analyst means feeling like an interculturally orientated professional who is building bridges across boundaries and collaborating on the profession and between the professions. Having served in various associations in different roles, I can tell you how necessary it is to work on real cooperation in the professional area so that EATA has set up a space of working together that is fantastic and unique in Europe, and we should be aware of this treasure.

We support each other, we have a common standard manual, we share a way of thinking about how to evaluate new candidates in exams, and we have a lot of possibilities for developing together. In my opinion, triggered by the new research on psychic development (e.g., Merlin Donald), I believe in how important it is to have a shared common communication. It is important in the



Matthias Sell receives his EATA Gold Medal from EATA President Maria Teresa Tosi

sense that we have the possibility to observe and reflect on ourselves while we are doing something together—for example, sharing a trainers' meeting or working together to staff exams, or at least working together as participants or as staff members in a Training Endorsement Workshop. This is, I think, an ongoing process in my life, and I appreciate having these possibilities.

Here you will match my deeper interest in creating an atmosphere or helping to create together in the endorsement workshops an atmosphere that contains the new trainers in our organization and helps them to widen their perspective to include intercultural ways of using transactional analysis. This is not just something nice to have; this possibility is important for our development as an organization and for increasing our professional quality as a European organization and as individual professionals.

Now let me conclude with some comments about being a European citizen. I think we have a task in our professional lives that is not so obvious; we have a responsibility for our social life, too. I will call it a social responsibility. In our profession, it is a priority to reduce bad power and power plays in the companies and institutions in which we work as well as in our work with our clients. We must take responsibility for organizing ourselves in a way that is suitable to the vision of having a peaceful life. What does this mean to us? It means that we should be aware of the opportunities in our organization, EATA, to support an attitude of being an European citizen. I think sometimes we rely too much on our national viewpoints instead of supporting a common European view.

Now you will understand my extensive inner convictions and principles. And what I want to share with you is that this award not only honors a handsome, hardworking, most-of-the-time young-feeling man, but you are also honoring this European intercultural conviction and principle, this deeply firmly rooted belief in the interdependence of human beings. In this way, I see and feel myself connected with Berne, by whom I feel supported in this international perspective of cooperation and collaboration. Thank you very much.

Matthias Sell can be reached by email at [sell@mmt-sell.de](mailto:sell@mmt-sell.de).

## In Memoriam

### Pio Scilligo

Pio Scilligo died on 3 July 2010 in Salesian University infirmary, a few hours after he knew that his last book, on sociocognitive transactional analysis, was finally published. His funeral was held on 5 July, and he was buried in the village where he was born, Val Formazza, in northern Italy. He will be greatly missed, and our condolences go to his family and friends. There will be more about Pio and his life and work in an upcoming issue of *The Script*.

### Alexis DiVincenti

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Alexis DiVincenti. Alexis was 61 years old and had been struggling with diabetes for 10 years. She was an ITAA Regular Member and contributed to the organization through her work on the *TAJ* editorial board (2002-2005), her coauthorship of the April 2003 *TAJ* article "Core Concepts of Transactional Analysis: An Opportunity Born of Struggle," and her participation in the online community, especially in the debate over the core concepts of TA. Alexis was a giant intellectually. She studied transactional analysis, gestalt therapy, and modern psychoanalytic theory exhaustively and enthusiastically. She was a strong proponent of integrative psychotherapy and with Richard Erskine, PhD, organized and nurtured the International Integrative Psychotherapy Association in 2001. She was instrumental in designing and organizing its first two conferences in New York (2003) and Spain (2005).

Alexis was born to poor, working-class parents in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1948. She came to young adulthood in the 1960s in New York's Greenwich Village and was, as with everything else in her life, right in the thick of it, making leading contributions to the antiwar and civil rights movements. She continued to be active in some way throughout her life. She saw transactional analysis as an instrument of personal liberation, an important aspect of the liberation struggles for humankind. That motivation inspired her work within transactional analysis, particularly the integrative psychotherapy part of the TA movement. She has gone too soon. Her health affected her ability to continue contributing to the transactional analysis world, although she had a great deal more to contribute. We will miss her greatly.

—Damon Wadsworth

## TA CONFERENCES WORLDWIDE

**25-27 SEPTEMBER 2009:** Calicut, Kerala, India. Third SAATA Annual Conference. Contact: [saata2009calicut@gmail.com](mailto:saata2009calicut@gmail.com); Web site: [www.saata.org](http://www.saata.org).

**5-8 NOVEMBER 2009:** New Orleans, USA. Mary Gouling Memorial Redecision/TA Conference. Contact: [www.redecisionconference.org](http://www.redecisionconference.org).

**9-10 JULY 2010:** Prague, Czech Republic. EATA Conference. Contact: Blanka Cepicka at [info@eataprague.cz](mailto:info@eataprague.cz).

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Please follow the instructions to authors on the inside front cover of any recent issue of the *TAJ*. Please e-mail manuscripts to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer, MSW, at [robinfryer@aol.com](mailto:robinfryer@aol.com).