



A TA World Conference Experience in Bilbao

by Sylvie Monin



**VOL. 41 NO. 8
AUGUST 2011**

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It is a privilege to write about my Bilbao experience for *The Script*. I spent 10 days in this vibrant, modern Basque city, home of one of the three now famous Guggenheim museums. Here the 2011 Transactional Analysis World Conference took place from 7-9 July, sponsored by EATA, ITAA, and ATAA in cooperation with the local hosting organization, APPHAT.

After arriving on Friday night, I went for a walk and first laid eyes on the impressive, iconic Guggenheim Museum, an extraordinary technological feat clad in limestone, glass, and, above all, titanium. I was immediately taken by the amazing and intriguing beauty of this museum, built on a bend in the River Nervión.

Majestically standing guard in front of the building, I found “Maman,” a monumental sculpture of a spider by Louise Bourgeois. Even though spiders are definitely not my favorite insects, the image of the web they build with the silk they extrude from their silk glands inspired me to enter into the mood of our world conference, a reflection of the fine transactional analysis community web around the world.

“The Challenge of Growth” was the theme of this conference. Right from the start, growth was indeed at the heart of the various activities I attended, which I want to remember chronologically here.

Over the first 3 days, I participated to the European Council as one of the two Swiss delegates. This was the first council with Sabine Klingenberg acting as president and ITAA’s president John Heath in attendance as an observer. To an enthusiastic and engaged group of 30 European delegates, Sabine spoke of her vision for EATA within and with the international TA community, promoting growth, stimulation, and challenge.

While council members were working hard on ways to best promote the mission and purpose of the EATA, a Training Endorsement Workshop (TEW) was taking place next door. Twenty candi-



“Maman” sculpture by Louise Bourgeois and the iconic Guggenheim Museum near the conference venue

dates were involved in learning and demonstrating their talents, with six volunteer TSTA evaluators, all members of our growing community. There too an air of growth and excitement lingered, together with a certain amount of anxiety, part of any evaluation and growth process. Simultaneously, the ITAA was running its board of trustees meeting with John Heath at the helm.

As the TA community gathered, the city of Bilbao was celebrating the Basque national day. The streets were happily resonating with the sound of music and cheerleading of canoe/kayak competition along the river, a sound that filtered through the windows and rocked our thoughts and emotions with a festive feeling.

Then came the evaluation days, with their load of anxious CTA and TSTA candidates in a buzz of international flavor, each with their share of joy and disappointment. During

both the candidates' and examiners' meetings, I experienced and fully appreciated the TA philosophy of OKness, which promotes, facilitates, and encourages the growth of individuals in their multitude of cultures, differences, and uniqueness.

Each day saw new participants arriving from all over the world. Greetings could be heard in a buzz of international languages. It was enchanting to wander along the corridors of the Deusto University where the exams, trainers' meeting, and world conference took place and to immerse myself in the spirit of our international TA community. People were greeting each other joyfully, meeting old friends, making new ones, mingling in a atmosphere of laughter and warmth.

During breaks on the restful patios of the university and wandering around, I fantasized that Eric Berne would have been thrilled and probably highly stimulated to observe and analyze how much one can say after saying hello—even when we do not speak a common language—with hands, eyes, and body!

The official inaugural ceremony took place in the atrium of the Guggenheim Museum, which for the occasion remained opened later at night to allow participants to stroll through its 19 galleries over three levels and admire its unique collection of contemporary art. The atmosphere in the atrium is



(From left) Itziar Martinez, Arantza Arrillaga, Jose Maria Lopez Reyes, Amaia Mauriz (chair of the conference organizing team), Concha de Diego, Alicia Pelayo, and Richard Erskine at the conference opening ceremony, during which Concha and Richard were honored with EATA Gold Medals.

described in *Connaissance des arts* (Lasnier, 2007) as follows: “the abundant light that streams in through the flower-shaped overhead glass and the curtain walls, flows of vital energy that seem to rise up to the sky and carry visitors into a rich sensory and emotional experience” (p. 24). It is, indeed, an uplifting experience to enter this wide space of glass lifts, stone stair towers, and curving walkways suspended from the ceiling. Feeling this energy reminded me of Eric Berne’s description of physis as a life force arising from the energy of the Child ego state that runs through the Adult and Parent ego states in an aspiration arrow (Clarkson, 1992).

It was in this enlightening environment that Richard Erskine and Concha de Diego were presented with EATA’s Gold Medal for their long-term engagement in the world of TA and their tremendous contributions to its growth and development over the years.

Following this grand opening and over the next 3 days, the 400 conference participants could choose from roughly 300 workshops and 4 symposia (one for each field of TA specialization), each participating in the growth of transactional analysis

the SCRIPT

Newsletter of the International Transactional Analysis Association
2843 Hopyard Rd., Suite 155
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Editor: Laurie Hawkes, MA
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Desktop Publishing: lockwood design

Deadlines—first of the month prior to the month of publication (e.g., 1 September for the October issue).

Advertising: Twelfth page: \$50; sixth page: \$100; third page: \$200; half page: \$300; full page: \$400. Publication of advertising in *The Script* does not imply endorsement by the newsletter, the editor, or the ITAA.

The Script (ISSN 0164-7393) is published monthly by the International Transactional Analysis Association. For information on membership, contact the ITAA office at the above address. © 2011 International Transactional Analysis Association, Inc.



Trudi Newton holds her plaque while ITAA President John Heath describes the many reasons why she was honored with the 2011 ITAA Muriel James Living Principles Award.

through an exciting and challenging sharing of ideas, opinions, experiences, and competencies. What an inspiring experience to meet in one place several “big names” in TA alongside many presenters from different nationalities and fields of experience. Going from one room to another, getting lost in the maze of corridors, I enjoyed the stimulating opportunity to meet international colleagues and share our various learning experiences.

On Friday during the ITAA general membership meeting, there was a special moment when Trudi Newton was awarded the Muriel James Living Principles Award. Then on Saturday at the end of the day, fol-

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lowing an interesting panel with the presidents and representatives of a number of major TA associations, Donna Marie Perry was given the Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award. Both Trudi and Donna Marie received loud applause from those gathered, and it was thrilling to be there and participate in these celebrations of identity and growth.

To conclude the conference on an artistic note, three local artists—Maria Vega, Amaia Pascual and Feli Estévez—offered a presentation they had choreographed especially for our gathering: “The Challenge of Growth: Dancing the Labyrinth,” with music by Claude Debussy, Alberto

Ginastera, Francis Poulenc, and Dustin O’Halloran. Their performance occurred in an intimate setting, as they danced and sang the challenge of growth in a deeply moving, disturbing, and engaging performance that I experienced as a generous, honoring, and loving offering to our TA community.

The last chord of this TA world symphony vibrated in the Euskalduna Jauregia, where the gala dinner took place. That was the moment to say a warm, grateful thank you to the organizers for their hard work under

the leadership of conference chair Amaia Mauríz Etxabe. It was also a time to celebrate once more the successful CTA and TSTA candidates in a joyful and spontaneous atmosphere, followed by dancing the night away in an wonderful expression of the Free Child.

At the end of my Bilbao experience, my wish for the future of TA is that all transactional enthusiasts (especially trainers) around the world are encouraged to join and participate in these exceptional moments that are congresses. They are wonderful opportunities to meet with colleagues and widen our frames of reference. I hope that they, in turn, stimulate others (especially trainees) to attend in the spirit of growth so as to maintain and contribute to the international flavor of our TA community.



Leaders of international TA associations at the Bilbao Presidents' Meeting

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Sketches from Spain

by John Heath

I'm doing what I can to improve communication with members. The 2011 board of trustees (BOT) meeting finished only yesterday, and I have encouraged individual trustees to write up their reflections on our process and their experiences of working for the ITAA. They are all busy, especially just now, and so inevitably it is impossible to get everyone involved. But in this article is a sample of people's thoughts and feelings, opening and closing with my own.

As I write this, I'm sitting in Bilbao, northern Spain, at the site of the 2011 World TA Conference. The conference has yet to begin, and the CTA and TSTA exams are in progress. There is an air of anticipation and excitement as we move closer to the conference itself. I've already spent 4 days in meetings here. I attended the EATA Council meeting as an ex-officio member, and, of course, I chaired our own BOT meeting for 2 days. It was an exhausting process but very gratifying.

EATA is a huge and complex organization now, with more than 30 members on its governing council under the leadership of Sabine Klingenberg. Transactional analysis is flourishing in many countries in Europe. There is a multimodality,

"I hope the fresh breeze of cooperation and optimism we saw begin in Bilbao will reach all of our members, wherever they live. To me the future is looking good for transactional analysis in the world."

multinational organization called the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), which is working to establish psychotherapy as an independent profession in Europe. Isabelle Crespelle of France is well known in both ITAA and EATA circles. She has been the TA representative in EAP discussions for some years now and has done a magnificent job of representing our modality. Nowhere else in the world is anyone grappling, at this level of organizational and professional complexity, with the issue of keeping transactional analysis in its rightful place as

a respected and serious theory and methodology. Isabelle is stepping down from the job this year, and her place will be taken by Marina Banic of Serbia, also well known to us in the ITAA as well as in Europe. We have a lot to thank these and many other European colleagues for. They are working tirelessly for the promotion of TA here in this developed and demanding part of the world, where standards are high and professional activity is closely regulated. That kind of context tends to be exacting, and, for those who can meet the challenge, has the effect of driving standards up. I have every confidence that our European colleagues



ITAA Secretary Steff Oates and ITAA Treasurer Vern Masse continue board discussions in a less formal setting

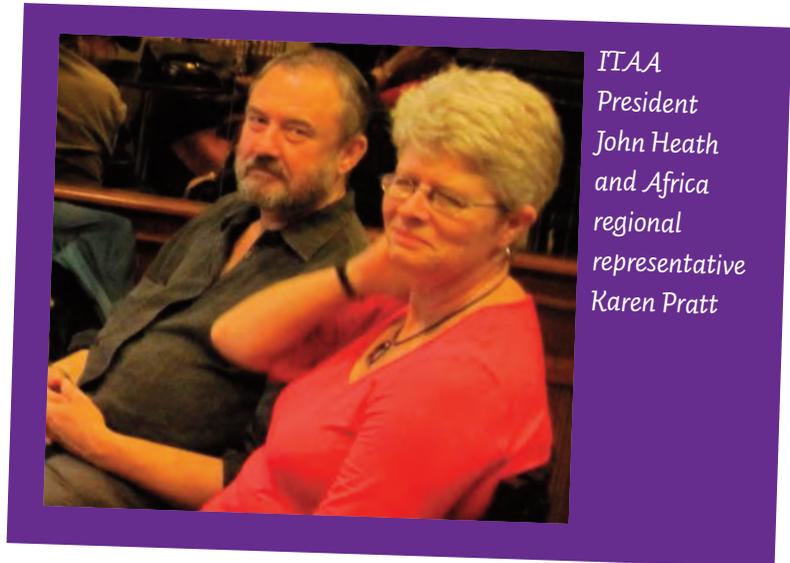
are more than equal to the demands they face and that their work will continue to contribute to the status of TA around the world.

The ITAA BOT met on 4-5 July. We had a long agenda stretching to 26 items. The mood of the meeting was excellent, and we got through the entirety of our workload with almost an hour to spare. We have further developed our vision for the modern ITAA as a networking organization for the promotion of TA globally. We have launched a new working group under the leadership of Karen Pratt from South Africa to look at the ways in which we can promote awareness of our work around the world and get our message known. We have finalized the contract for the 2012 conference in Chennai, India, and under the leadership of Vladimir Gousakovski we are looking for conference venues for 2013 and 2014. We have set a budget for the next financial year that will operate within our projected income, and this will include money for making much of the DVD, video, and audio material owned by the ITAA available for download from the new ITAA website. We are confident that the new website will enable us to make accessible to members a large amount of the organization's intellectual property. It will also facilitate the creation of dialogue and academic debate. We are hopeful that this will widen the attractiveness of ITAA membership and perhaps stimulate a recovery of membership numbers.

Here now is a selection of comments made by trustees.

Karen Pratt, Regional Representative for Africa

I write this with a sense of excitement and anticipation about the



*ITAA
President
John Heath
and Africa
regional
representative
Karen Pratt*

future of the ITAA, having participated in 2 days of board meetings that were characterized by a spirit of cooperation and openness. I feel privileged to be a part of the board during this time of transition and transformation. My particular brief for the coming year is to form a PR working group to promote awareness of the mission and work of the ITAA. Mandy Lacy, the new board member from the Australasia region, will join me. Her particular expertise is in using social networking. As we bring the ITAA more fully into the era of electronic media via our new website with its state-of-the-art capabilities, it follows that we tap into social networks to promote our organization and enable members to participate more immediately in the collective thinking and developments in the ITAA. As transactional analysts, we are in the business of communication, and I am looking forward to the challenge of enabling the best in twenty-first-century methods for doing this. I believe that you as members will play your part in responding to keep alive our mission of being an international network promoting excellence in transactional analysis.

**Erich Kosloski,
Regional Representative
for Latin America**

My experience serving the ITAA began right after the Lima Conference when I helped the executive committee to revise contracts for conferences. That was a rich experience through which I started to understand the delicate times our organization is going through. Organizationally, it was interesting to see that although the ITAA obtains formal legal advice from a law office based in California, there have been, as far as I know, no lawyers among the membership who serve the BOT in any way. Back then, my task was to clarify legal aspects of our contracts to make sure they support our tradition of goodwill, trust, and OKness and yet to explore all possible consequences of those documents as acts that obligate ITAA, the membership, and other parties. My official term as a trustee began in 2010 at the Montreal Conference, and my personal experience was one of surprise, some fear, and a sense of uncertainty due to the fact that the ITAA faced major organizational challenges; we also experienced the tur-



Susan George, outgoing Asia/India regional representative and one of the organizers of next year's conference in Chennai, India

bulence generated by our former president's resignation. My second surprise in Montreal was the conscience and participation demonstrated by the membership at the World Café event, which generated energy and empowerment and produced an enormous amount of material for the BOT to work with in order to make changes happen. Currently, I see that the ITAA still has a long way to go in making needed changes, and I also see that much as been done. This is evident in the executive committee and BOT reports. My vision today is that the energy, will, and resources are there and that we are growing into a different, more assertive, and more productive organization.

Steff Oates, Secretary

I was appointed ITAA Secretary in March 2009. I was excited to become an active member serving what I consider to be a vibrant international community. While I was interested in becoming a member of a board of trustees with the shared language of TA and yet spanning a variety of different cultures, I was also extremely nervous that I might not bring enough knowledge of how the ITAA as an organization worked. From my first board meeting, where I felt nervous and unskilled, I have been support-

ed so well by my colleagues on the board and among the ITAA staff that I have developed enough confidence and intrigue to passionately want to serve on the board for a further 3 years.

Over the past 2 years there have been many changes. The face of the ITAA is changing. There have been sad and necessary losses. There is no longer an office, and our beloved Ken Fogleman is working part time. At this stage I am proud to be serving as an extra contact point for members' inquiries.

Vann Joines, Representative for North America

The excellent working relationship that the board of trustees established in Montreal was carried through in Bilbao due in part to excellent leadership, which has been shared with the rest of the board members. Issues are discussed thoroughly in an atmosphere of cooperation, collegiality, and respect. It is refreshing to work on a board where people truly relate from an OK-OK position. One of the highlights of the Bilbao meeting was inviting the T&CC members to meet with us for a couple of hours to talk through all the fantasies and misconceptions about what each group was thinking of the other with the history of the T&CC being required by law to be a separate organization from ITAA while the members who filled the positions on the T&CC were all ITAA members. The discussion clarified that while we are required to be

separate, we have a common goal in wanting to provide a positive experience for individuals who are going through training and certification. At the beginning of this meeting, there was a good bit of tension, but as soon as we started talking and sharing our concerns, that fell away. Once again, we saw the importance of getting together face to face and talking out our concerns rather than operating on the basis of our fantasies and assumptions. I think everyone experienced it as extremely helpful and relieving. We are all committed to working together in a mutually beneficial way. The other highlight of the Bilbao BOT meeting was discussing a new structure and creating a new set of bylaws that will assist the ITAA board in fulfilling its function in a more economical and efficient manner. You will be hearing more about that as we hammer out the details. I think you will find it as innovative and exciting as we do.

Vladimir Goussakovski, Vice President of Operations

I am new on the BOT, having joined in January of this year. Bilbao was my first meeting in vivo after several months of virtual contacts. I was impressed to see this truly international community, the whole world in miniature, sitting at one table. I was proud to think that I was one of the people representing the global organization created by Eric Berne. Two and a half days seemed a short time, but it was enough to lay a foundation for the next year of intensive work to find new ways to develop the ITAA. The discussions were not easy and had to take into account the major changes ITAA has had to make to survive. That was exactly what was inspiring for me as a Russian person who is used

to living in times of change. I found especially exciting the web projects that are intended to make the resources of ITAA available to all members. I look forward to seeing and participating in the process of making real the ideas that have been planned.

**C. Suriyaprakash,
Vice President of Research
and Innovation**

As I begin my sixth and last year of my second term on the ITAA BOT, I look back with pride and satisfaction at all that we have been able to accomplish. I feel enriched by the diversity that each of my colleagues has brought to the table, which has resulted in its own complexity at several stages. However, we have worked together as a coherent and responsible unit even in the most adverse situations. There are tangible achievements that can be listed, such as the digital *Script*, a balanced budget, our new website, and so on. But to me the most significant aspect was the tenacity with which the board held itself and transformed its style of functioning to take the association to where it belongs: to its members! We have reinvented ourselves. There is still a long way to go. Our organizational and membership structures need to be revamped to be more responsive and agile in decision making. I request that each of you visit our new website and send in your feedback to make it robust and able to serve its purpose. I would also urge you to put yourself forward to serve on a committee and to participate in running our ITAA more effectively and efficiently. The air of optimism and hope that was experienced in the BOT meetings and the annual general membership meeting in Bilbao was a dream come true for me.

From now until the end of my term in Chennai next year, I will continue being part of this process of reflection and transformation that was mandated by our membership.

Vern Masse, Treasurer

This last year has been one of great change for the ITAA. We made hard decisions in order to balance the budget. We closed the office and contracted with our long-term employee Ken Fogleman to change from full-time employee to part-time contractor. We stopped marketing the books we have published. We have a one-time retirement expense that will account for a small deficit in 2011. It is expected that from 2012 there will not be any more deficits.

This year we are working to implement structural changes that will allow the ITAA to grow and prosper in the future. Much energy went into the formation of a new structure for the board. This new structure will be shared with the membership and voted on at the next conference in Chennai, India. After days of board meetings, I appreciate the leadership and creativity of the entire board.

**Susan George, Regional
Representative for
India/Asia**

As I listened to the reports of various board members, I realized that the needs of transactional analysis communities in various parts of the world are similar. One is to have functional networks, both regional and international, and the other is to benefit from the application of TA theory and practice both personally and professionally. The deliberations and decisions of the BOT addressed both of these needs. The facilities on the new website, the

plans to add new content to it, and the steps taken to use the intellectual property of the ITAA effectively deal with the networking needs. The open, direct, and goal-focused conversation between the members of the BOT and the T&CC and the decision to have a combined working group to work out blocks and make new plans has laid the foundation for enhancing the professional training and certification process. Reflecting on the Bilbao BOT meeting, I am aware that we were able to do meaningful work because of the cooperation, proactive stance, and synergy with which we functioned throughout the year under the welcoming and encouraging leadership of our current president.

And now back to me, John Heath. I hope members will share my pleasure in reading these comments from some of our trustees. There will be more to come, which we will publish later. The World Conference in Bilbao was a wonderful experience and one we will talk about for a long time to come. We have begun a new process of debate and discussion between ITAA and T&CC, between ITAA and EATA, and between the BOT and the membership. These are just some of the ways in which there is change in the air. I hope the fresh breeze of cooperation and optimism we saw begin in Bilbao will reach all of our members, wherever they live. To me the future is looking good for transactional analysis in the world. A modern, open-minded ITAA is sure to have a key contribution to make in how this all unfolds in the decades to come. 5

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Reflections on Bilbao

by Laurie Hawkes

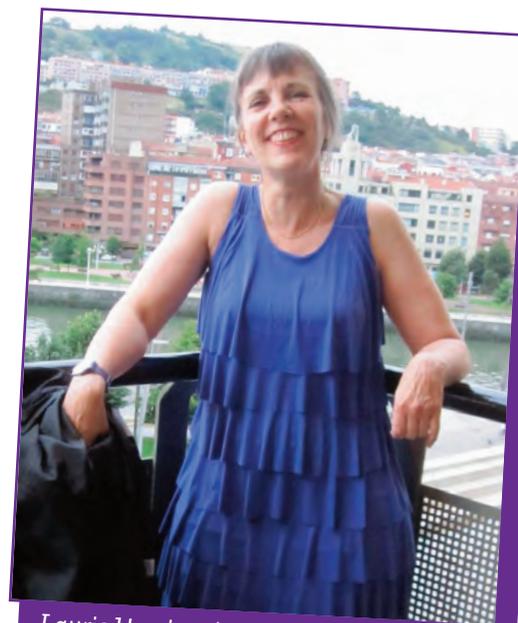
Bilbao was a great conference. Do we always say that, feel that way, after a conference? And what makes a conference “great”? For some, it will be because of a great workshop(s) they went to, things they learned or experienced. For others, it will be getting together with colleagues they like (love?) and haven’t seen in a long time. Some may even remember their hotel most fondly, or some wonderful social event could be the most important memory.

The Bilbao conference combined many wonderful features. First, the city of Bilbao was every bit as beautiful as conference coordinator Amaia Mauríz Etxabe had promised. The old town with its beautiful buildings, the river Nervión with the varied bridges crossing it, the hills all around, the sea nearby . . . and the Guggenheim Museum! That “morceau de roi” (“a piece fit for kings”) is worth a trip in itself. And our wonderful organizer had secured an incredible gift for us: an evening with the whole museum to ourselves. The Thursday evening formal opening ceremony, which took place in the museum, included special thanks and recognition to two people who had been important for TA in Spain and for EATA:

Concha de Diego and Richard Erskine both received the EATA Gold Medal. After ample applause for the two recipients, drinks were served, and then transactional analysts started roaming the vast spaces of this extraordinary construction with its wonderful modern art collections. A truly splendid evening and a glorious conference beginning!

Sylvie Monin, who writes about the conference elsewhere in this *Script*, did such a fine job of describing the conference that I shall only mention a few additional bits. We had wonderful keynote speeches every day, starting with Richard Erskine, who vibrantly addressed the conference theme of “The Challenge of Growth,” followed by Resi Tosi and José Martínez. On Friday, Natalia Ojeda delivered some fascinating

Our thanks to Laurie Hawkes, Curtis Steele, Ravi Welch, Maite Aurre, Jan Hennig, Joaquín Granados-Rossi, and David Newton for sharing their photos from the Bilbao conference.



Laurie Hawkes dressed for dancing at the Bilbao conference banquet

information about neuroscience, which Jim Allen then discussed in terms of TA psychotherapy. That same morning, concurrent with the symposia, the Transactional Analysts for Social Responsibility (TAFSR) panel took place, “Len Campos’s brainchild,” as chair John Monk-Steel said in his opening remarks. This panel offered a moving time for participants as it revived Berne’s social psychiatry tradition. Some of “our people” (transactional analysts) have been doing so much for the less fortunate, including torture victims and other refugees immigrating to Italy without official papers as well as other communities in dire need of knowledgeable help (see more on the panel on page 10). Present in the group attending the panel was Donna Marie Perry, who on Saturday was to receive the Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award for her untiring work with many troubled



Panatano Hall at Deusto University, where conference keynotes were presented

human groups (see the May 2011 *Script* for details).

Friday was also the day of the ITAA Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM). Like last year, we had a quorum (unusual in recent years), which is encouraging for the association, as was the calmly optimistic assessment of the future given by various members of the ITAA board. For the first time in many years, we have a balanced budget, which lifts the dark shadow that has hung over us for so long. Of course, reaching this goal required much slimming down, especially by closing the office and reducing staff, but we are finally living within our means. As you can read in the Board Notes in this *Script* (see page 4), our future

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website will offer many new features to attract new members and satisfy current ones. At the end of the AGM, Trudi Newton received, with her usual poise and grace, a very much deserved Muriel James Living Principles Award.

And so, Saturday quickly came, with keynote speeches by Gloria Noriega and David Ceridano, interesting workshops, and time for closing events. In the afternoon, there was a TA association presidents' roundtable about the future of our TA organizations, which left many questions for all of us to reflect on. We then moved on to the closing ceremony: a live performance by a psychotherapist, a pianist, and a dancer that to me really represented the slow and often frustrating journey of psychotherapy: taking a few steps forward, retreating, progressing a bit, then running for cover again. In the words of Amaia, the performance "was based on an old Celtic transition ritual representing the internal fight between the desire for contact with others and with the world and the wish to remain within the false security of the 'I'm OK/You're Not OK' position, the struggle of letting go of one's script or holding on to it, and the relevance of the healing relationship with others who can invite us into intimacy and freedom and thus help us drop our masks, rackets, and false positions so as to achieve cure as described by Berne. This special dance took place on a carpet that represented a labyrinth, a ritual sacred Celtic carpet created by a blind man from Bilbao who thus

expressed his own perception of his journey to growth through his difficult circumstances."

The closing ceremony was our farewell to Deusto University, with its handsome old wooden stairways and impressive cloisters. The banquet that followed in the Euskalduna Jauregia was full of good feeling, good food, and our traditional "jumping up and down" dance party. It was clear that a wonderful time was had by all!

Our conferences are an important meeting time for our community, a fun and eye-opening time, a time for working and thinking and reflecting together. Next year, we meet in Chennai, India (the new name for the city long known as Madras). Susan George and Suriyaprakash have already done a lot of work to prepare for our next gathering, and information and details will be on the new ITAA website by September. I hope you will start making your plans to join us as soon as you get back from vacation! 5



Conference closing dance performance

Panelists Seek Positive Social Changes

by John Monk-Steel

One of the important gatherings during the World TA Conference in Bilbao, Spain, was a panel presented by Transactional Analysts for Social Responsibility (TAFSR), the group first convened by Leonard Campos at the 2010 ITAA conference in Montreal.

The TAFSR mission statement reads as follows:

We are a worldwide network of transactional analysts who support the development of socially responsible applications of transactional analysis. Our common goal is to apply the principles and tools of transactional analysis to foster positive social change in all cultures. For this purpose we use our effective leadership to respond publicly and constructively to address issues of socially unjust behavior in our communities. This includes such issues as

“We contend that it is only through being politically active and being public that we can make an impact and a difference. The question is, what are you able and willing to do to help humanity and the environment?”



(From left): Eva Sylvie Rossi (Italy), Vladimir Goussakovski (Russia), John Monk-Steel (UK), Keith Tudor (New Zealand), and Marco Mazzetti (Italy) during the TAFSR panel in Bilbao

personal and institutional prejudice and harmful inter-group conflicts that interfere with peaceful relationships. To achieve our goal of positive social change, we encourage transactional analysts to become actively involved in using their intervention skills and expertise to work with community leaders in government, education, business organizations, and religious institutions.

The panel, developed by Leonard (who was unable to attend the conference), was chaired by John Monk-Steel (United Kingdom) with panelists Vladimir Goussakovski (Russia), Eva Sylvie Rossi (Italy), Marco Mazzetti (Italy), and Keith Tudor (New Zealand).

The panel presentations and discussions were both inspiring and challenging. The panelists spoke about:

- The need for cultural sensitivity and how some transactional analysis concepts may be threatening in some situations (e.g., a female client said that if she told her husband that she was OK-OK and equal to him, he would kill her—and she meant it)
- TA as an effective model for the gradual development of awareness of gender equality
- Mobbing (bullying) in workplace organizations and institutions and between individuals and how space can be used as a means of mobbing (e.g., isolating people or crowding them)

If you wish to join TAFSR, please email Leonard Campos at lcampos@ulink.net or John Monk-Steel at monksteel@hotmail.com.

- The plight of asylum seekers and the difficulties of those who are victims of torture, including individuals who were denied basic health and social care because of their alleged political status
- The need to enter the dialogue regarding biculturalism
- The need for radical psychiatry and the rediscovery of the radical tradition in TA
- The need to analyze alienation and oppression to enable us to confront social injustice

The consensus was that it is not enough to say that TA is a social psychology/psychiatry. We need to act outside the consulting room, and in this sense TAFSR transcends the four fields of TA application; and all four fields need to work in harmony to these ends.

We need to be involved in:

- Advocacy for the oppressed and disadvantaged
- Research/scientific intervention
- Lobbying governments, councils, organizations, and individuals
- Public commitment to social justice

People are in need now—we need to act now.

We understand that taking the position that we are all involved in politics may be controversial. We are using the concept of politics in its broader meaning of the organization and application of power and influence, not affiliation with politi-

cal parties. We are all politically involved already. Wherever we work—whether in the classroom, a business/organization, or a therapy/consulting room—we have a political position and a political viewpoint. We in TAFSR urge all transactional analysts to become politically active in confronting injustice and oppression.

We also need to be aware of the importance of cultural differences throughout the world while simultaneously being mindful of the fact that all members of the United Nations (UN) have signed the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document is well worth reading. The first sentence in the preamble reads: “Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

It is also worth noting the first two articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

“Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are

endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. . . .”

Clearly, this document is consistent with the TA philosophical principles echoed in the latest version of the EATA code of ethics. [Editor’s Note: These principles are also consistent with the ITAA code of ethics, though in a somewhat different way.]

We urge you all to lobby governments to fulfill their commitment to these human rights and to adhere to them in all contexts. We contend that it is only through being politically active and being public that we can make an impact and a difference. The question is, what are you able and willing to do to help humanity and the environment? 5

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TAJ Editorial Board Members Sought

The TAJ is seeking seven new members for the editorial board beginning 1 January for the term 2012-2014. If you are interested in being considered for one of these positions, please email your name, country, and a brief statement about your areas of interest/expertise and your experience in writing and/or editing to TAJ Managing Editor robinfryer@aol.com by 1 October.

Watch for Your Ballot for Vice President of Development Election

Ballots were sent to all ITAA voting members by 30 July 2011 either electronically (if the member has a signed consent for electronic transmissions on file with the ITAA) or by post. The deadline for return of ballots is 28 September 2011.

If you have not yet filed a consent to electronic transmissions form, we urge you to do so either by going to the ITAA website at www.itaanet.org or by faxing in the form in the July 2011 *Script*.

New Website for the ITAA www.itaaworld.org

The ITAA has a new address in cyberspace: www.itaaworld.org. Please visit the BETA version of our new website and send us your comments. Your feedback will be valuable in making it robust! Send your comments to webmaster@itaaworld.org. The full site will be up by September 2011.



EATA President Sabine Klingenberg (Germany) thanks Bilbao conference organizer Amaia Mauriz Etxabe (Spain) for all her hard work

TA Conferences

27-29 October 2011: San Antonio, Texas, USA. USATAA Conference. Contact: www.usataaconference.org.

2-5 November 2011: Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Latinoamerican TA Conference/30th Conglat Mexico 2011. Contact: Martha Silva, Conference Logistics (marthaisilva@yahoo.com.mx); José M. Tafoya, Chairperson (email: iaoptimo@gmail.com); website: www.amatsc.org.mx.

8-11 August 2012: Chennai, India. International ITAA/SATAA Conference. Contact: www.itaaconference.com.

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