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**IN THIS ISSUE**

**ITAAworld.org: The New Home of the ITAA Online**  
1

**Memory and Authenticity: The Ethics of Memory**  
3

**Encountering Eric in China**  
6

**French-Language Website Offers Wealth of TA Information**  
8

**In Memoriam: Denton Roberts**  
10

**TAJ on Counseling**  
12

**BOARD NOTES**

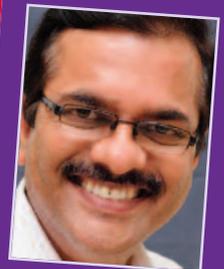
## **The New Home of the ITAA Online: itaaworld.org**

**A**s the New Year unfolded, a new era began in the life of the ITAA. Our new website opened up for members so they could renew their membership online, and the members' login area began operating so members can manage their own profiles and directory details. Much more exclusive access to resources will be thrown open to members through this feature in the months to come. We have a way to go in harvesting the benefits of technology and the Internet for our growth and development, but we are happy at this point to let our membership know what has been going on at the back end over the last year.

At its meeting during the World Conference in Bilbao, the ITAA Board of Trustees (BOT) resolved that the time had come to pursue the purpose of the ITAA with new vigor. Driven by the mandate of the membership at the World Café a year earlier in Montreal, the BOT had set a new vision by styling the ITAA as a "worldwide professional network for the development of transactional analysis theory and practice." This transformational move was made possible by the immense opportunity that the Internet holds for us to expand and reach out to our members and other transactional analysis colleagues all around the world. Subsequently, the decision to close the office in California and to end our contract

with Ken Fogleman as a full-time staff person was made possible by leveraging technology to meet our administration needs. We found that the old website ([www.itaanet.org](http://www.itaanet.org)) was not technically capable of taking up this new role. We had long talked about and hoped for a new website, but now the need was urgent.

Niraj Singh, who voluntarily developed and managed our website for the Montreal conference, came forward readily to take up the challenge. Even though he is not an ITAA member, and driven by his personal dharma, Niraj decided to and continues to offer his services as the webmaster to the ITAA totally pro bono. He has, over the last several months, worked tirelessly along with C Suriyaprakash and Ken Fogleman to build our new website ([www.itaaworld.org](http://www.itaaworld.org)).



*Niraj Singh (left) and C. Suriyaprakash*

*“We now have a front-end website that can serve as a dynamic platform by which members can share, refer, discuss, and network and a virtual office to manage our back-end operations.”*

The new site is built on robust open-source platforms content management and CRM platform. With this combination, we now have a front-end website that can serve as a dynamic platform by which members can share, refer, discuss, and network and a virtual office to manage our back-end operations.

*The Script* has been successful in its new digital format, and back issues are now available on the site for ready reference. Soon we will have the complete *Transactional Analysis Journal* available through our website; members will be able to search, read, download, and purchase individual articles as well as back issues. In addition, we have a team working hard on digitizing several audio- and videotapes of master transactional analysts, including some of Eric Berne himself, to be available for viewing and downloading online. We receive online inquiries every day, and these are responded to by Steff Oates, secretary to the BOT, who forwards questions directly to the individuals who have the relevant information.

We are now also featured on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Our public relations committee, led by Karen Pratt and Mandy Lacy, is working to make the best use possible of these social networks in order to reach our membership and beyond on a daily basis.

All of this means that we are in the midst of a massive transition, so errors, delays, and frustrations are bound to occur. We are pleased that

many members are already using the new site, the majority of them with an open mind and a willingness to accept that the transition involves a learning curve, new ways of functioning, and some disruption to the status quo. While there is some doubt, occasional resistance, and now and then a bit of panic as we make these changes, we are certain that we will, very soon, have a far better system in place than anything the ITAA has ever had before.

In the weeks and months to come, we want to involve you and to hear your input and ideas about how to make the site better. This is part of a dynamic conversation between the membership and the ITAA Board of Trustees that we have been seeking to foster for over a year now. Please visit our new home and send us your feedback. We greatly appreciate your patience and your participation during this transition. **S**



**CHENNAI, INDIA**

**9 TO 11 AUGUST 2012**

**HOTEL GRT GRAND**

for Conference and Meetings

**Organizers:** ITAA and SAATA

**Host:** Poornam – Institute for Holistic Development

**Early-bird registration has been extended to 28 February 2012**

*We are pleased to introduce the third keynote speaker for the Chennai conference.*

**SHYAM BHAT**

on “Neither This, Nor That:  
An Introduction to  
Integral Self Therapy”

Integral self therapy is a form of integrative transpersonal nondual psychotherapy. It integrates a self concept that comes from the philosophy

of nonduality (advaita) along with insights from Western psychology. Shyam Bhat will review the theoretical background of the subject and explore topics such as nondual philosophy and how this pertains to usual self-concepts, the history of psychotherapy in the East and the West, and the efficacy of different modalities of psychotherapies for individualistic societies versus collectivist ones. He will also discuss some of the techniques of integral self therapy.

**SHYAM BHAT, MD**, is a psychiatrist, internist, and integrative medicine specialist who lectures widely on yoga psychology and transpersonal nondual psychotherapies, including integral self therapy. Dr. Bhat writes columns for various magazines in India and has published widely in journals such as the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, and the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. For more details, visit [www.shyambhat.com](http://www.shyambhat.com).



# Memory and Authenticity: The Ethics of Memory

by Bill Cornell

*The following is an edited version of the keynote speech presented by Bill Cornell at the 5th Annual Romanian Transactional Analysis Association (Asociatia Romana de Analiza Tranzactionala or ARAT) Conference on 20 November 2011 in Bucharest, Romania. The conference theme was "A TA Tool Kit for an Authentic Life."*

**W**hen I was invited to give this keynote speech at the closing of the ARAT conference, I was taken by the theme of authenticity. In transactional analysis, we have typically stressed and idealized autonomy. I wondered about the choice of authenticity as a theme and wrote Oana Panescu to inquire. She wrote back that the conference committee had considered autonomy as a theme but decided that authenticity was a more complex concept and had more meaning to the Romanian community.

Autonomy is about being separate, independent, self-governing—a very American ideal. Authenticity is something quite different. What does it mean to be authentic? The thesaurus gives

these as synonyms: reliable, dependable, trustworthy, trusted, credible, believable, OK, realistic, true-to-life, factual, real, honest. Authenticity has much more to do with how we are in the presence of others, how we bring ourselves to one another.

And here I am, an American, talking to a conference of Romanians about being authentic. Whose authenticity are we talking about? Is it always a good idea to be authentic? There have been times here in the not-too-distant past when being authentic could get you beaten, sent to jail, or killed. As I thought about what I might say tonight, I found myself full of worries and contradictions. I could not think about authenticity without also thinking about memory and history, but I wasn't sure what one had to do with the other.

I've been thinking about what was happening in the United States when Eric Berne was creating transactional analysis. The country was at the peak of its power. We were victorious in World War II and felt like we were entitled to rule the world. Our economy was robust and it seemed we could (and should) accomplish anything we could want or imagine. Women were fighting for their place in society and the economy, blacks were fighting for their civil and economic rights, the hippies were smoking massive quantities of dope and dancing their way across the country in bare feet. Of course, there was the Vietnam



War, but we tried not to let that dampen our spirits too much. Eric Berne was busy creating a new psychotherapy in the comfort of a safe and self-satisfied era, overflowing with American ideals of self-fulfillment. Berne drove a Maserati convertible—an automobile that cost more than many people's homes.

It was the time of milk and honey, of unquestioned prosperity in the United States. This was NOT what was happening in Romania during those years. The grandparents and parents of most of you sitting in this auditorium today witnessed the Soviets' violent and arrogant shredding of centuries-old cultural and religious systems, disrupting and dislocating families, their homes, and their ways of life. By the time Berne died and transactional analysis seemed to be at the top of the heap of psychotherapies in the United States, Ceausescu had declared himself the savior communist king, with Elena as his queen for all time. For 2 decades and throughout an entire generation, the Ceausescus unleashed their madness throughout

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*“There have been times in Romania in the not-too-distant past when being authentic could get you beaten, sent to jail, or killed.”*

this city and across the nation. Dignity, safety, predictability, and tradition were systematically destroyed.

As I have worked with many of you in Bucharest and Timisoara these past 3 years, I have been deeply touched by the familial, social, and cultural sufferings that engulfed this country for decades, starting with the Soviet takeover, the crushing totalitarianism, and the psychotic powers of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu. For decades, through three generations, silence and deceit were often essential for survival. Personal authenticity was out of the question, out of this world. The silences between generations have so often endured, meant perhaps to be protective but also inevitably fracturing and debilitating—crushing the possibilities for authenticity and intimacy.

In preparing for this talk, I read articles on the generational impact of Nazi fascism (Heimannsberg & Schmidt, 1993), Soviet Communism (Merridale, 2000; Miller, 1998), and eastern European totalitarianism (Lindy & Lifton, 2001), which have helped me form an understanding of what I needed to say today. Introducing their book of essays reflecting on “The Psychological Symptoms of the Nazi Heritage,” Barbara Heimannsberg and Christoph Schmidt wrote:

The questions of the children to their parents—“What did you do back then?”—go unanswered, and the children have learned early on not to ask such touchy questions in the first place. Horror, guilt, and suffering are all hard to bear, scarcely to be named or spoken of. But silence is paralyzing, and the things which have been kept secret and repressed return in other forms. (p. 3)

From my earliest days of training in transactional analysis, I have been reading the work of Robert Jay Lifton, a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst. I was

first drawn to his work because he had written about the impact of the Vietnam War on the soldiers returning home (Lifton, 1973, 1979)—something most people were choosing to ignore at the time. Through many books, he has examined the darkest sides of the human experience and how people survive and even thrive.

More recently, Lifton and a colleague, Jacob Lindy (a specialist in posttraumatic stress disorders), gathered a collection of articles by psychiatrists and psychotherapists working within Eastern bloc nations during the times of Soviet domination. Their book is titled, *Beyond Invisible Walls: The Psychological Legacy of Soviet Trauma* (Lindy & Lifton, 2001). In their reflections on the essays in this book, Lindy and Lifton described two kinds of “invisible walls.” The first they characterize as the “enduring traits” of culturally sanctioned defenses that become an indelible part of the psychological landscape—defenses seen as both necessary and “normal.” Being forced to submit to unreasonable and arbitrary authority results in chronic patterns of dissociation (psychic numbing) and dissembling (lying), “thereby sacrificing one’s authentic self.” There was that word again, “authentic.”

“Succumbing to absolute collective power meant despairing of individual hope and initiative” (p. 199). Here I think we catch a glimpse of the appeal of transactional analysis in societies that were once subject to communist totalitarianism. In stark contrast to communism, TA values the rights of the individual and sanctions personal initiative.

The second pattern of invisible walls Lifton and Lindy described were the “gaps between generations” (p. 200),

which they wrote about as a powerful block to communication between parents and children, between generations, around the history and issues most central to the establishment of a coherent sense of identity. They described how these lies and silences “hide the epidemic of the traumatic losses of parents and grandparents” (p. 200). It can feel to a child that it is an act of cruelty toward one’s parents to want to cross this gap, to break the silence, to want the truth, the emotional truths, of their lives and suffering.

Silence. As a psychotherapist, I think of the silence between generations. I think of the many examples I have encountered in my work here. And I think of my own family.

As I began imagining this talk, I thought of an incident from several years ago with a client, a university professor, who grew up in Germany after World War II. He came into treatment because of a disabling depression that was untouched by medication. He was filled with debilitating anxiety and self-



*After Bill’s speech (from left): Florentina Bocioc, Bill’s translator; Bill; Oana Panescu; and Razvan Anghel*

loathing. He had been brutally treated by his father, but he refused to talk about it—the past was the past, he insisted. I knew from the family history that I had obtained when we began working together that his father had been drafted into the German infantry at 17 and spent 9 years fighting, including the assault on Stalingrad, one of the most brutal campaigns of a brutal war. One day I asked him again about his

father, and he responded angrily, “Why the fuck do you keep asking me about my father? I’ve told you repeatedly that I don’t want to talk about him. I want to forget he existed. I don’t want him to have any more power over me. I wish he were dead. WHY do you keep asking me about him?!”

“For decades, through three generations, silence and deceit were so often essential for survival. Personal authenticity was out of the question.”

I replied, “My father, too, went to that war. Your father came back brutal, mine came back broken. I know in my bones that until you understand what happened to your father, the man who is your father, what broke him, what he cannot bear, you will never be free to be yourself.”

Neither my father nor my client’s father was ever able or willing to talk about what happened in the war. What they witnessed, what they may have done will be forever unspoken and unknowable. Encased in tortured silence, their anguish was passed on to their children, but their actual (authentic) lived history (and suffering) remain unknown. This is a legacy from my father: To this day I often find myself falling unconsciously silent when those around me want most to hear from me. It feels to me like an act of intrusion rather than communication.

While my client’s father acted out his private anguish in unspeakable rages against his family, my dad endured his in silent withdrawal, doing his best to live a decent life and protect his children from his inner demons. When my father’s life became unbearable, he chose to end it. I was horrified, frightened, and furious, demanding he take care of himself. He replied, with unforgettable honesty, “You don’t have the right to ask that of me. You have not lived my life, and I have had enough of this life.” It was a confrontation that will stay with me forever. Even in the

last days of his life, he refused to tell me of the war years that still haunted him, but we spoke of our lives and losses together in a pained and loving honesty. I was able to let him go and move on with my own life.

In our professional work, we seek, we welcome, we need our histories. We build our understanding and our compassion for our clients and groups in part through learning their histories. I sit day in and day out with clients, students, and supervisees who are desperate to know more about their parents, who feel an intimate hunger to know their parents and grandparents as real, authentic people. In so doing, they hope to come to know themselves more fully, authentically. But so often, this is not to be. So many families, so many cultures and their histories are wrapped in self-protective silences, warding off unbearable memories, determined to forget rather than remember.

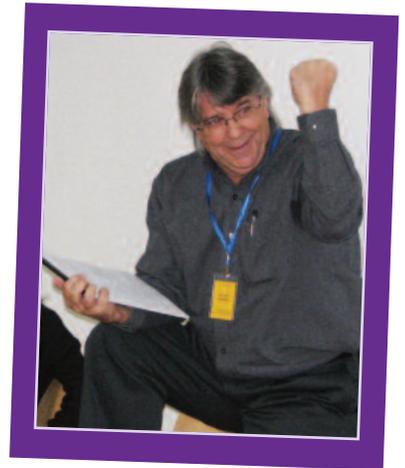
I have come to have much more respect for the unbearable, for the frailties of being human. My father’s words, “You do not have the right . . .” have echoed in my mind and heart many times since he first spoke them. I have found a richness, and an authenticity, within myself in coming to genuinely accept the limits of my parents—that however much they might have wished for me, the realities of their own lives and histories rendered them less than what they had hoped for. Their losses and sufferings were, in fact, far worse than mine.

I have come to see the relief and growth that occurs as clients come to grieve the loss of what was never there and never will be so as to be able to open themselves to new passions and possibilities. I am not speaking here of forgiveness. I do believe that parents do things to children that are unforgivable. I am speaking of the facing and acceptance of limits and losses, the capacity to feel the damage and still see and relate to those who have hurt us.

The past may remain locked away, unspeakable, but the present is alive. The present still holds the possibility of contact, discovery, forgiveness, under-

standing, moments of delight, and deep regret and authenticity. There is an authenticity in how I can recognize the realities, including the limitations and suffering, of another human being, and of how I can bring myself to that person—authentically—in the face of what I can see and understand about the other. This is not to suggest that it is easy or that it is a sure thing. We risk disappointment. We risk hurt.

So I will leave you with this thought, although perhaps it would be more accurate to say I leave you with this heartfelt opinion: that an “authentic” self is a self that can bear disappointments and limitations and continue to care and to move toward the world and those around us.



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## Encountering Eric in China

by Yang Mei

I came to know Eric Berne first through reading the book *I'm OK, You're OK*, in which Harris (1967) introduced applications of Berne's theory to psychotherapeutic practice. The book was a best-seller in the United States for several years. That was the first time I witnessed how a psychological theory can influence the public.

While focused on and committed to introducing psychological knowledge to students and Chinese people, I regard Berne's theory as most effective in helping people enhance their quality of life and sense of happiness. This is because the major characteristic of his theory, compared with other theories of psychotherapy and personality studies, is more operational and straightforward. Some may confuse straightforwardness with shallowness, however, it is actually a means to simplify a complex question, render knowledge readily accessible to the public, and make substantial contributions to the improvement of people's psychological health. In the traditions of Chinese medicine, we advocate the philosophy that "the best doctor prevents a disease," and

*"In the traditions of Chinese medicine, we advocate the philosophy that "the best doctor prevents a disease," and the straightforward, lively demonstration of knowledge in Berne's theory helps ordinary people to prevent psychological diseases and elevate their quality of life."*

the straightforward, lively demonstration of knowledge in Berne's theory helps ordinary people to prevent psychological diseases and elevate their quality of life and sense of happiness. Thus, Berne's theory is an effective psychological self-help instrument.

At the 28th International Congress of Psychology in August 2004, I attended the speech by Thomas Ohlsson from Sweden. I learned that he had offered transactional analysis training in Taiwan for years, and a book he and his colleagues had written was translated into Chinese and published in Taiwan. I asked Dr. Ohlsson if he would like to come to Mainland China to introduce transactional analysis, and he agreed. In June 2005, the first systematic transactional analysis training course in China was launched offering twice yearly training for 3 years. Later, Dr. Ohlsson added two

psychologists to his team to China, and in April 2011 he began working with the Beijing Municipal Education Commission to train psychological counselors in college.

My associates and I were in the first class of the systematic training; before that we only studied transactional analysis by ourselves through relevant readings in English or Chinese. The training allowed me to develop a comprehensive understanding of the essence of Berne's theory, and in 2007 I began offering a TA course to my students. I have found that many students are quite aware and apply the theory not only in their own lives but also to help their family and friends. For instance, one of my students taught her father, who worked as a prison officer, to first appease prisoners using the Nurturing Parent ego state, then to regulate them using the Controlling Par-

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ent, and to get along with them mostly from the Adult ego state. Her suggestion increased her father's efficiency at work, which indirectly made their relationship more harmonious (her father used to be easily irritated at home because of troubles from work). Witnessing the ways my students make wonderful use of the theory to improve the quality of their lives and those of their families inspires me. (I wrote more about this in the July 2009 issue of *The Script*.)

In addition, through two studies I have been able to demonstrate that the theory of transactional analysis has positive effects on students' growth. The first used empirical research to investigate whether educating college psychology students in transactional analysis theory would have positive effects on their locus of control. Two questionnaire surveys were conducted before and after the transactional analysis class, and personal narrative reports by the students were collected. The results showed that education in transactional analysis reduced the external control proclivity of the 81 students, and their assignments displayed a similar proclivity. The conclusions were that theories have enduring bearing on the psychology education of college students and that an increase in such education should be considered. With regard to transactional analysis, its theoretical and operational characteristics make it not only applicable to psychological education for college students but also significant in helping the students to discover and explore their own potential and to liberate their creativity.

The second study used the six factors suggested by Ryff (see Seifert, 2005) (self-acceptance, personal growth, purpose in life, environmental mastery, positive relations with

others, autonomy) as indicators of psychological happiness to examine the effects of the transactional analysis course. The study looked at whether psychological health and well-being of the college students improved after the course. Positive change in any of the six factors means that psychological well-being has improved. The qualitative research study analyzed 66 papers from students who took the transactional analysis course at Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing and the effect of transactional analysis on improving their mental health. The results showed that

those who chose the transactional analysis course showed improvement on all six factors to various degrees, which affirms the effects of transactional analysis on mental health education.

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## Call for ITAA Board Nominations

The following positions are open for nominations.

**Deadline:** 31 May 2012

**Officers** (nominations allowed from any region and elected at large by all ITAA voting members)

- President-Elect (2013)
- Vice President Operations (2013-2015)
- Vice President Research & Innovation (2013-2015)
- Treasurer (2013-2015)

**Regional Trustees** (nomination and election only by members of the region)

- North America (2013-2015)
- Africa (2013-2015)
- Latin America (2013-2015)

Nominations require the name and consent signature of the nominee (it may be yourself), the name of the person making the nomination, and the name of the person seconding the nomination. To be eligible for nomination, trustees may not have

already served two consecutive terms of office in any position on the board. Position statements (charters) that describe the function and selection criteria for each of the officer positions are available from the ITAA or in the Guidelines (part of the official documentation) on the ITAA website at [www.taworld.org](http://www.taworld.org). Nominees are encouraged to read and understand these before accepting nomination.

Send nominations to ITAA Nominations Chair Sumithra Sharatkumar at [sumithrask@gmail.com](mailto:sumithrask@gmail.com).

If you have not already submitted a **Consent to Use of Electronic Transmissions** so that you are eligible to vote electronically in the case of a ballot, we urge you to do so right away by visiting <http://itaaworld.org/index.php/home/consent-form-electronic-transmission>.

## French-Language Website Offers Wealth of TA Information

**J**érôme Fargette, a trainer in interpersonal communications, has created a blog/website (see [www.analysetransactionnelle.fr](http://www.analysetransactionnelle.fr)) that has become a French-language resource for those interested in transactional analysis. This noncommercial venture offers transactional analysis history and theory, original articles, a list of training facilities, training curricula, a bibliography, announcements for events in the world of transactional analysis, and personal reactions and analyses illustrating concrete applications of TA. Script Editor Laurie Hawkes interviewed Jérôme, a man with a passion for TA.

**LH:** Hi Jérôme, thanks for agreeing to this conversation. We met only a few years ago, but I have followed your blog for some time. How long have you been interested in transactional analysis and how did that come about?

**JF:** My first contact with transactional analysis occurred outside of my awareness: Seven years ago I was in therapy with someone I now know to be a Provisional Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (PTSTA), and he told me about a TA 101 course. I wasn't interested in any more book learning since I'd had my fill during my law studies. But a little while later, I had another

opportunity to attend a 101 course, and I thought, "Why not?" It was fantastic! I can still remember what I told people at the end of those two days: "This is the most interesting thing I have learned so far!" Since then, I have discovered many other things that were as interesting—and I've changed jobs—but those words still hold true, and the joy of that first contact with transactional analysis concepts remains. I feel very grateful to Eric Berne for what he started and the way he did it. My website is, among other things, a way of paying homage to him.

**LH:** Tell us about your ideas for [www.analysetransactionnelle.fr](http://www.analysetransactionnelle.fr).

*"I can still remember what I told people at the end of the TA 101: 'This is the most interesting thing I have learned so far!'"*

**JF:** When I began training in transactional analysis, I was eager to find all the information I could, as you can imagine. To write my TA 101 exam, I read *Games People Play* and *What Do You Say After You Say Hello?* among other things. There were some rather boring handbooks, all of them 20 to 30 years old. The basic concepts were the same, but



so many things evolve over such a long time period. On the other hand, there was the Internet, but that really disappointed me. How was it that such a wonderful theory as transactional analysis had so little presence on the French-language Internet? Aside from the French, Belgian, or Swiss institutional websites, or sites for the main teaching institutes, there was practically nothing. So the first thing I did was work with my friend Eric Bittar, a PTSTA (E), to help correct the transactional analysis page on Wikipedia, which was quite incomplete and inaccurate.

Then I took my problem to Laurent, a friend who is a webmaster. Three years ago, I knew virtually nothing about the way the Internet worked, particularly blogs. Laurent was in the process of creating a website, and he showed me how to reserve a



*“To our great surprise, ‘analysetransactionnelle.fr’ was still available, so I took it. What I wanted to do was to talk about transactional analysis, and no other name seemed as appropriate!”*

domain name. To our great surprise, “analysetransactionnelle.fr” was still available, so I took it. What I wanted to do was to talk about transactional analysis, and no other name seemed as appropriate!

Later, Laurent created the structure of the blog, and I spent the following months developing the content. I had it checked by people I knew, some of whom knew nothing about transactional analysis to see whether the texts were good introductions and some of whom were TA trainers (among them Eric Bittar and Axel de Louise, both PTSTAs) to see if the theory was accurate. I also collected all the information I could find about transactional analysis: training institutes, events, publications, and so on. I contacted people like Nicholas Calcaterra (who keeps up an excellent website about his grandfather) for the photographs and Robin Fryer for ITAA copyright questions. All this to offer my readers what I had wished I could find: everything about transactional analysis, or as my slogan says, “TA from A to Z”!

**LH:** How has your website been received?

**JF:** The public gave me a hearty welcome, and to this day I receive regular emails or comments on the website to thank me or to voice pleasure about our shared passion. This makes me happy and proud. Soon I had a wonderful surprise: Agnès Le Guernic (TSTA-E), offered

to collaborate on the website. Since then, Agnès has been writing a regular column about her experiences and reflections about transactional analysis with a pedagogical turn that I really appreciate. She is a real gift to our readers!

On the other hand, the welcome was not so good from some representatives of the French association, Institut Français d’Analyse Transactionnelle (IFAT). During my training, I naturally became an IFAT member, so I took my project to the board to see how we could work together. They did not want me speaking for them or overshadowing the association’s work. Naturally, I was disappointed, but I decided to carry on without their support.

**LH:** Do you know what kind of people visit your website?

**JF:** Visitors are mainly people outside of transactional analysis, because professionals already have their own sources. I get many questions about the TA 101 and about training and the various institutes. Most of them are French—sometimes expatriates—or Europeans, but I have also had a few Canadian contacts and even a few from Belarus! Perhaps some also come via the Eric Berne group I created on Facebook. What I notice is a regular increase in visitors: At this point, I get an average of 700 per day. Part of that is probably due to some good strokes I have received recently, such as being mentioned in psy-

chology magazines or at the end of certain books—including your latest, Laurie, on social anxiety.

**LH:** What would you say your blog has contributed to letting people know about transactional analysis?

**JF:** I think it came in at an important transition time for transactional analysis in France. When I launched my website, there were few recent books about TA in French, but over the following 2 years, more than a dozen were published! That is a clear sign that there is a strong demand in France right now for information and news about transactional analysis and other comparable methods. In such a context, a website like mine can really be useful by offering a way to discover information and exchange ideas with others, all at no charge. Undeniably, it has made transactional analysis more accessible to a greater number of people.

**LH:** Thank you for sharing your story, Jérôme. Your blog/website is a generous and useful venture, and I am glad it was a well-informed, well-intentioned person such as you who took the domain name “analysetransactionnelle.fr”! Maybe it will inspire knowledgeable people in other countries to do something similar. 

*Jérôme can be reached via his website and by email at [jeromefargette@yahoo.fr](mailto:jeromefargette@yahoo.fr).*

## Denton Roberts

by Vince Gilpin

**D**enton Roberts died on 12 December 2011. With his passing, transactional analysis has lost a dedicated ambassador and a faithful friend, and the ITAA has lost a devoted son who loved and supported the organization for many years and in countless ways.

Denton became a Clinical Member in 1971 and a Teaching Member in 1976. He attended most ITAA conferences and made presentations all over the world up until 2009 when his health began to fail. He served on countless ITAA committees, including the Board of Trustees. He served as secretary and treasurer many times and even managed the ITAA office for a while when we made the transition to doing without an executive director.

Denton was a greatly understated powerhouse of a man. He was a clergyman but not doctrinaire. He was more spiritual than religious, and his defining characteristics were his social conscience, his compassion for the underprivileged, and his dedication to serving others. He marched in the Civil Rights Movement, built All People's Church in Los Angeles into a community center, and was a source of comfort and support to a vast array of friends and his own extended family. He closely supported and guided his

two sons to successful careers and families of their own, was a devoted caretaker for his wife, Gerry, through a long and painful terminal illness, and was an anchor for his brother and his nieces and nephew and a doting grandfather to their progeny.

This was a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. He had a sense of humor and great appreciation for the outdoors. He loved camping and was never happier than when he had a horse or mule between his legs or a fishing pole in his hands. Around a campfire he told stories and quoted his favorite theologian: "Where there is sin, there is grace. Sin boldly that grace may abound." This was the underpinning of his capacity to empathize and forgive. His favorite hymn was an African-American spiritual, which he sang most mornings in the shower: "There Is a Balm in Gilead to Heal the Sin-Sick Soul."

Denton was part of the group of people who persuaded the ITAA Board of Trustees to create the scholarship loan fund, he was key in the modernization of the ITAA bylaws and constitution, and he was active in raising funds toward the purchase of the ITAA office building. Along with others, he was a prime mover in the creation of the USA TA Association (USATAA). In addition



to his organizational work, he contributed articles to the *Transactional Analysis Journal* and wrote a number of books, among them *Able and Equal*, *Find Purpose Find Meaning*, and the whimsical *Lumps and Bumps*, the latter of which was probably written for children but became a favorite of many adults.

The world is a better place because Denton journeyed here. May his next escapade be equally beneficial to all he encounters.

*The following are some tributes from friends who knew him well.*

"Denton was my friend for over 35 years. He was always there to lend a helping ear and a helping hand. He helped me raise \$10,000 to start an interfaith dialogue group of social activists. That group met for over 10 years and out of it came some profound things, including a freedom-and-faith bus tour around the 2004 U.S. election and a talk-back at Riverside Church that gave anti-war

activist Cindy Sheehan her voice (before she camped out at Bush's ranch). Denton made it all happen."

—Eddie Beaujon

"I worked, learned, and played with Denton for about 40 years. He was an original character: a super-loyal friend, part tobacco-chewing, beer-drinking cowboy; part itinerant political preacher and administrator; part huge unrecognized influence in transactional analysis history; an author and originator of important humanistic concepts; and a persistent worker for transactional analysis around the world. May he rest in peace." —Claude Steiner

"Denton was a leading figure in The Enhancement Network (which developed the theory on which both mental health counseling and the counseling certification in TA is based). He would come to the annual "Get-Together" and was a keynote speaker. He also wrote some articles for the *Enhancement News*. I feel great sadness at the loss of a friend and am so aware that our generation of transactional analysis is passing." —Bill Krieger

"A lot of laughs and shared sorrows from a full-bore human animal, Denton. He was my principal colleague in developing the 'cellular model.' Denton organized a group of psychotherapists in southern California in 1975, and the group has continued across the years. Denton and I were slaking our thirst in an unpretentious mountainside tavern when I drew the first cellular model on a paper napkin. His training was in theology and mine in biology, and our pursuit of the True Self has been complementary." —Bob Phillips

"Denton was a glorious man for those of us who revel in sly glances giving hints of grave disbelief. One certainty was, if you were his friend, you felt loved and treasured. Denton did the work of caring for others without schmaltz and with laughter a major part of his prescription." —Emily Ruppert

"Denton was a kind, caring, intelligent, generous, loving, and fun friend. He was a dedicated transactional analyst and did whatever he could to protect and promote TA. He was a founding member of USATAA and the third general coordinator of the young association. Denton was instrumental in developing the M & M Award for honoring accomplishments in transactional analysis in the United States. He taught transactional analysis to prisoners in New York and many other places in the world and worked for a long time at Ground Zero after the 9/11 disaster. I will miss him and cherish memories of happy times together." —Felipe Garcia

"Denton stood as a man of faith who was committed to social justice and a healer of intrapsychic and interpersonal oppression. I cherish memories of his wisdom, kindness,

humor, and fun-loving ways and his essays in the All People's Church newsletter, which fed my soul. We worked and played together for 35 years in the ITAA and USATAA. Denton was amazingly influential in providing leadership within these organizations, with strategies that were effective and often humorously creative." —Jo Lewis

"In my mind's eye, I see Denton as the mischievous, fun-loving cowboy behind whom stood the hard-working fellow, ready to take on whatever heavy chores came his way. We were on the ITAA Board simultaneously for two terms, so I could appreciate the supportive historian with a sharp memory and sense of justice, cheerfully capable of balancing divergent demands. We all miss you, you bright, generous rascal!" —Fanita English

## the SCRIPT

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## Theme Issue of the TAJ on Counseling

by Sylvie Monin



As a counselor, it is a privilege and honor to be invited to guest edit the April 2013 *Transactional Analysis Journal* dedicated to transactional analysis in counseling. The

field of counseling is dear to my heart, and the work we do as TA counselors seems ever more important in our rapidly changing society (Cornell & Hine, 1999). One of my fascinations with transactional analysis counseling is the wide variety of areas in which it is used, either in a primary or complementary function (European Association for

Transactional Analysis, 2008, sect. 5.3.1, p. 3). Among the trainees and colleagues I know and work with are nurses, law enforcement personnel, midwives, priests, chaplains, social workers, human resources managers, family office managers, professionals working with horses, ergotherapists, physiotherapists, sophrologists, career orientation specialists, coaches, and counselors in private practice. A wide representation, indeed!

For the *Transactional Analysis Journal* on counseling, I encourage those of you who are counselors in our TA community to write about your specific work in ways that share the richness of your practice, your field of expertise, and how you define the TA field of counseling.

I am enthusiastic about this project and invite you to share the excitement by grabbing your pens (or computers) to write about your professional work as counselors. I am always surprised that the field of TA counseling is not well known, but now we have a wonderful opportunity to present our emerging profession and what we, TA counselors, do. Please follow the guidelines for submitting TAJ articles at <http://itaa-world.org/index.php/knowledge-zone/taj/taj-submission-requirements>. The deadline is 1 July 2012. I look forward to reading your manuscripts and sharing this experience with you.

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Sylvie Monin, Provisional Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (counseling) and Integrative Counselor, has a private counseling practice in Geneva, Switzerland, and is a trainer and supervisor at the Centre A. T.–Geneve (Center for Transactional Analysis Geneva). She can be reached at [sylvie.monin@bluewin.ch](mailto:sylvie.monin@bluewin.ch).

### Upcoming TAJ Theme Issues

**“Counseling and Transactional Analysis”**  
**Guest Editor:** Sylvie Monin  
**Deadline for Manuscripts:** 1 July 2012

**“Transactional Analysis and Children”**  
**Guest Editors:** Marco Mazzetti, GÜdrun Jecht-Hennig, and Dolores Munari Poda  
**Deadline for Manuscripts:** 1 July 2013

Please follow the submission requirements posted at <http://itaa-world.org/index.php/knowledge-zone/taj/taj-submission-requirements>. Email manuscripts to TAJ Managing Editor Robin Fryer, MSW, at [robinfryer@aol.com](mailto:robinfryer@aol.com).

## Welcome to New Members

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