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Charlotte Daellenbach and Elana Leigh Honored with SAATA Professional Awards

by C. Suriyaprakash
and Radhakrishnan

The first-ever South Asian Association of Transactional Analysts (SAATA) Professional Awards were presented to Charlotte Daellenbach (New Zealand) and Elana Leigh (Australia) during the multilevel training (MLT) held in Chennai, India, 7-8 January 2012. The SAATA Professional Award recognizes those who contributed significantly to the professional development of transactional analysis in the South Asian region. Charlotte and Elana pioneered the process of professional development of transactional analysts in India more than a decade ago with their Provisional Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (PTSTA) workshops. They traveled to India almost every year, spending their time and their own money, to conduct these workshops. In due course, they also introduced trainers process meet



Elana Leigh and Charlotte Daellenbach with their SAATA Awards

(TPM) to help the group of budding trainers to evolve as a professional community. In 2003 they expanded the PTSTA workshops into the MLT, which benefited PTSTAs, CTAs, and CTA trainees of all levels. MLT became an annual feature in the transactional analysis training calendar for the Indian TA community.

The TPM and MLT were the seeds that grew into the regional professional

Reminder:

Make sure to return your ballot by 16 August for the special election to extend John Heath's presidency.

See the July 2012 issue of The Script for details:

<http://itaaworld.org/index.php/the-script/download-the-issues> .

body SAATA in 2007. Thus, it was only fitting that when SAATA set up the Professional Award, its first recipients were Charlotte and Elana. It was a proud moment for the founders and members of SAATA to have the opportunity to honor our own “gurus,” who held our hands and taught us to walk the path of becoming a professional community.

The citation for Charlotte reads, “Charlotte Daellenbach: A well-grounded and authentic person, she has contributed immensely to the development of professional transactional analysts through her pioneering efforts in the introduction of multi-level training. A gentle, compassionate professional, she structures and nurtures with awareness, intuition, and creativity, facilitating boundary clarity with her subtle sense of free-



January 2012 multilevel training group in Chennai, India

dom. She has empowered the professionals of the region by encouraging and supporting the formation of SAATA.”

The citation for Elana reads, “Elana Leigh: A dynamic and candid person, she has generously contributed to professional training of transactional analysts in India, providing sustained support, encouraging reflective learning, and challenging with empathy. Profoundly ethical, she has empowered the growth of multilevel training in the region and the formation of SAATA. Born in South Africa, trained in England, and working in Australia, she is sensitive to cultural differences.”

The theme of the 2012 MLT was “Ethics and Professional Practices.” Over 70 members of SAATA, from all levels, conferred and discussed the ethical issues that are significant to the South Asian region and the relevance of the ITAA code of ethics in this region given our unique sociocultural contexts. The

experience was electric, with wide-ranging views presented on ethics and how to adapt our code to reflect our sociocultural reality. We expect the lessons from this MLT to help us to adopt a code of ethics that will include elements significant to our culture. ⑤

the SCRIPT

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TA Conferences Worldwide

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

6 October 2012: Edinburgh, Scotland. Scottish Transactional Analysis Association Conference. Details: www.scottishta.org.uk/staaconferences.htm

10 November 2012: Leeds, United Kingdom. North Eastern Transactional Analysis Conference. Details: www.netac.org.uk

Life – Let's Play!

by John Heath



"It is my fervent hope that those who meet in Chennai will honor what they bring with them, embrace the new things they may find there, and return home with new inspiration."

This edition of *The Script* will reach members immediately before the annual conference, this one in Chennai, India.

This is the time of year when many of us begin our annual migration to the conference site. I have been every year since 2004, which was my first trip to an ITAA conference, and that year was also in India, in Bangalore. The Chennai conference thus has a timely circularity for me.

I am reminded every year of how important this moment is in our community life. It is the time when we come together and call forth our conference spirit. It is at this event that the work of the organization and the ethos of transactional analysis manifest in real time and real space. It is always interesting, often great fun, and sometimes marvelous. I would urge all members to come to an annual conference if ever they can. You will not regret it.

This year we have much to celebrate:

- We have a new website up and running.
- We have opened the way for a restructuring of training and certification services in transactional analysis.

- We are on the verge of a historic agreement with a well-known publisher to include the *Transactional Analysis Journal* in their portfolio of scholarly journals.

These are all works in progress, and I hope to be able to report further steps in all of these ventures as a result of the work done at the conference.

As I prepare myself to take part in the conference, I am mindful of the origins of transactional analysis more than half a century ago in the western United States. It was formed in the melting pot of ideas that abounded in that place and at that time. In the 1960s some of the best minds in the Western world were devoted to the pursuit of enlightenment through self-exploration and the freeing of individuals to live as they saw fit. Transactional analysis has survived since then and matured into the global force we know today. It is ready to shake hands with Old World wisdom. Dedicated as we are to the pursuit of free and open communication between the peoples of the world, our event in Chennai truly has the potential to be a meeting of the ancient and the modern.

In the modern era, and in service of our mission, we have developed a

coherent psychological theory, a respected scholarly journal, a modern interactive website, and a fine tradition of professional qualification. We bring all of it to Chennai in the spirit of "Leela." In Indian philosophy, this conceives of life as the play of God. In God's play, we, the players, are responsible for our parts. We are autonomous and joyful creatures who are also part of the divine celebration of joy.

And let us not forget that the conference is for all. It is not just for those who are able to attend. It is my fervent hope that those who meet in Chennai will honor what they bring with them, embrace the new things they may find there, and return home with new inspiration. That way we all gain from the magic and we all benefit from the privilege.

For my part, I will be hoping to further our mission, deepen our links with other transactional analysis practitioners and organizations, and report back to all our members on our achievements as soon as possible. **S**

John Heath is ITAA President and can be reached at johnheath@itaa-net.org.

Why I Write: Libraries, Reading, and Writing

by Bill Cornell

Recently the amazing science fiction author Ray Bradbury died at 91, having continued to write until a few weeks before his death. Forty years ago, he wrote an essay titled, “How Instead of Being Educated in College, I Was Graduated from Libraries or, Thoughts from a Chap Who Landed on the Moon in 1932” (Bradbury, 1971). I had the good fortune to be educated in both libraries and colleges.

When I was 10 years old, I had my first male teacher, Mr. Davis. I imagine that Mr. Davis knew I was a pretty lonely kid, so he offered one Saturday to take me to the local library and teach me how to use it. A world opened up to me. Saturday mornings, he would take me to the library. Half way through the year, I moved with my family to another part of the town and a different school. It was a short walk to the library there, but on Saturday mornings I rode my bike to my old school (a long ride) so that Mr. Davis could still take me to the library there. In the library, I discovered a world in which people thought and wrote about life. When I got older, I would take the bus each Saturday to the nearest city and read all day in the library.

My college, Reed College in Portland, Oregon, was unique in that we only

read primary sources. There were no textbooks. Classes were small seminar groups in which we discussed and debated the texts. The library was extraordinary, and I became the student manager of it, which gave me special access to the stacks. One of my favorite poets, Philip Whalen, kept his archives there, so I would spend hours reading through the letters and experimental writings of my favorite poets—Gary Snyder, Whalen, Allen Ginsburg, Michael McClure. I fell more deeply in love with writing, though I could never imagine doing it myself.

The other unique feature of the Reed

education was that all the students spent their entire senior year researching and writing a thesis. It was assumed that most students would be going on for doctorates, so this was a very demanding immersion into scholarly research and writing. The thesis experience taught me how to read research and think critically, and it imbued me with a deep respect for scholarship. But writing remained a precarious enterprise.

My first serious writing for the *Transactional Analysis Journal* (or anything else) was at the relentless behest of Rebecca Trautmann, the editor of the *TAJ* in the mid-1980s. She



Script Editor Laurie Hawkes, Bill Cornell, and Tina Bezzola, a TA therapist from Geneva who has been translating some of Bill's writing

talked me into coauthoring, reluctantly, two articles on supervision with Marilyn Zalzman that were based on a conference workshop we had done. Marilyn had a brand new computer, was completely enamored with what it could do, and loved making charts, so we were off and running. The writing bug bit, even though writing was agony.

For the next 15 years or so, most of my writing was fundamentally theoretical, typically taking up some aspect of theory with which I had a quarrel or attempting to bridge differing theoretical models. My own thinking and experience was hidden behind a wall of other peoples' thoughts and opinions. Gradually, I came to write in my own voice. For about the last decade and a half, my writing has been typically spurred by thinking about a problem I have in my clinical work. I write a first draft. Immerse myself in relevant literature—Reed style. Write a second draft. Give it to some colleagues to read and critique. Write a third and maybe fourth draft. Read it out loud. Write what hopefully will be the submitted draft, and wait for the editing and critique.

I don't think I would ever have really learned to write without two people—Suzanne Robinson and Robin

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“My own thinking and experience was hidden behind a wall of other peoples' thoughts and opinions. Gradually, I came to write in my own voice.”

Fryer. Suzanne gave me the use of her cabin on Meech Lake in Canada for a week every summer to have the privacy and peace of mind to write first drafts of various things I was thinking about. After a day of writing, I would cook dinner, and Suzanne and I, accompanied by copious quantities of good wine, would sit on her boat house roof as the sun set and argue about what I was writing. I would take my first drafts home and work on them over the course of the next year. Robin Fryer taught me how to structure an article, stop writing paragraph-long sentences, and keep the reader in mind while I wrote. My years now of editing articles for the *TAJ* has further taught me an immense amount of what makes an article clear and engaging to the reader.

Over the years, I have also learned a great deal about the collaborative nature of writing. Many of my most important articles have been coauthored. Much of my thinking has been deepened by collaborations with colleagues who work from a different frame of reference. I worked with Jim McLaughlin, a psychoanalyst in Pittsburgh, for 2 years to write and edit a collection of his landmark (and controversial) papers, *The Healer's Bent* (2005), which earned him a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Psychoanalytic Association shortly before he died. Coauthoring is a rich, stimulating, and intimate experience.

I have also written often for journals outside of the transactional analysis community, and through that

process have learned the importance of immersing myself in other points of view, which I am often challenging. I want my critique always to be an *informed* critique. Years ago, a friend and colleague of mine, Lew Aron, a prolific author and editor, told me that the first draft is always an argument—sometimes with yourself, sometimes with others. He said if your article stays an argument, you just solicit defense from the reader. The second and third drafts move you past the argument phase. Lew's was sage advice. I have also learned over the years the importance of collaboration with editors. I cannot tell you how my writing has been improved by close, careful, critical feedback.

So, why do I write? I write in order to think. When I cook, I feel surrounded in the kitchen by all those I've loved who have cooked for me. Likewise, when I write I feel like I'm in the library surrounded by teachers, mentors, clients, and colleagues.

Now I love to write.

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Upcoming Exams

CTA Exams in Dunedin, New Zealand, will be held on 15 March 2013. The deadline for applying is 15 December 2012. For more information, contact exam coordinator Judith Kime at judith.kime@xtra.co.nz.

Not Why I Write, But How

by Brad McLean

Creating the Writing Frame

I read the column on “Why Do You Write?” in the June issue of *The Script* and felt encouraged by your invitation to respond. As an advanced transactional analysis psychotherapy student, I am doing far more reading than writing at this stage of my career, but I have worked for 12 years as a journalist in print and digital publishing environments. It is through this lens that I would like to offer some tips about how to set up the right “frame” (to use a psychotherapeutic reference) for writing work that will be meaningful to readers.

I recently had the opportunity to interview the former editor of this newsletter, Bill Cornell, and he lamented the lack of writing by transactional analysis therapists in and outside the TA community. There is no doubt that writing is a confronting thing for many people, but I agree with Bill we should be challenging our injunctions in this area because the health of any professional community can be measured, in my view, by its discourse. For this reason, we all need encouragement to write, write, write.

These are my tips. I hope they are useful.

Think About the Reader First

It is important to write in a way that offers the reader something rather than putting pen to paper to explore ideas that might only have meaning for us as individuals. This is not always easy to do, and this is where the editor plays such a valuable role. Good editors guide writers from the perspective of readers, and editors know if there is merit in what you want to write. Often there is, but your approach might need to change. Go with the advice, because editors know the needs of their readers.

I recently had lunch with a book editor who was open to the idea of commissioning a book on psychotherapy for the general public. I approached the possibility with enthusiasm, but in discussions I came to realize that my ideas were about books I would want to read whereas he was frank about the fact that these would not sell. So, the idea was shelved for now. The reader always comes first!

Create a Template for the Piece You Want to Write

It’s age-old advice to have a plan, but so often that is not how we approach writing. Creating a structure to a piece of writing does three



useful things. First, it makes it clear that you really can build enough content to make the written piece work. Second, it makes writing easier by creating chunks to write. Third, gaps in your argument and missing pieces, which require more thought, will emerge. So, a plan is essential and should be shown to your editor so he or she can advise and direct you.

Edit, Edit, Edit! Cut, Cut, Cut!

It might surprise you, but writing is only a small part of the process. Much, much more time should be spent self-editing, restructuring, and rewriting. And always put the work aside and return to it. You are bound to have a Eureka moment of clarity that will result in changes that dramatically improve the impact of your writing. A good rule of thumb is to spend a third of your time writing and two-thirds editing.

Anecdotes Are the Lifeblood of Writing, but Take Care

We’ve all read entirely theoretical papers that sometimes seem like they were designed to put us to

sleep. I think as therapists we need theory to be brought to life through stories, and herein lies the value of anecdotes or case details.

Read any profile piece in a magazine or newspaper, and you will see there is a sequence of facts, anecdotes, and quotes. Facts create the frame, anecdotes bring the piece alive, and quotes offer insights into the subject's way of seeing. It is a tried and true formula, but, if applied more in psychotherapy writing, it could bring theory to life much more effectively.

A word of warning, however: It is important that the anecdote works in the context of the piece and is fully enough explained so there is no confusion for the reader. A partially colored picture will lose readers quickly.

It is also of utmost importance to be scrupulously ethical and professional in obtaining consent and/or protecting the privacy of any individual about whom you write. Never cut corners on this.

Show Someone Your Writing and Ask Them to Read Critically

Writing seems like a personal, solitary process, but that is only the case until the piece is shared with others. Then it is entirely public. Always show your writing to people and ask them to read critically well before you submit to an editor. Advice offered consistently by a number of reviewers is golden and should be acted on as these are your first and possibly most important readers. ⑤

Brad McLean is an advanced psychotherapy trainee at the Centre for Integrative Studies in Sydney, Australia. He can be reached at www.bmctherapy.com.

Welcome to New Members

NEW MEMBERS	MEMBERSHIP SPONSOR	NEW MEMBERS	MEMBERSHIP SPONSOR
DECEMBER 2011		MARCH 2012	
Ida Bottaro, Italy	—	Said Abul Khair, India	—
Stuart Carrol, UK	—	Christina Copeland, USA	—
S Krishnan, India	—	Nishanth D, India	—
Alex Lagas, Netherlands	—	Rod Freeman, USA	—
Janette Plummer, New Zealand	—	Dimple Jain, India	—
Ksenija Popadic, Germany	—	Rosaline Nain Chia, UK	—
Venkateshwaran S, India	—	Daniel Stone, UK	—
Ian Wallace, UK	—	Vagn Strandgaard, Denmark	—
JANUARY 2012		APRIL 2012	
Farbod Bahramimoayyed, UK	—	Gizem Arikan, UK	—
Pac Bieman, Netherlands	—	Nigel Dawson, UK	—
Sascha Buechel, Switzerland	—	Lorna Donaldson, UK	—
Ramya Kumar, India	—	Kai Duan, UK	—
Jelica Marinkovic, Russia	—	Melinda Holden, Canada	—
Jelena Popadic, Serbia	Zoran Milivojevic	Atsuko Kojima, Japan	—
Uriel Quijano-Juárez, Mexico	—	Tea Kolar-Jurkovsek, Slovenia	—
Branka Rabar, Hungary	—	Jacob Sake Van den Berg, Netherlands	—
Monica Ravina, Canada	—	MAY 2012	
Nadica Skeparoska, Macedonia	—	Suresh Babu, India	—
Nora Szucs, Hungary	—	Bruno de Raemy, Switzerland	—
Mrs A. Whiteford, UK	—	Florian Filipp, Germany	—
Isako Yoza, Japan	—	Helena Hošpel, Slovenia	—
Vesna Zdrnja, Russia	—	Olukemi Davo Erinfolami, Nigeria	—
Marija Znidarsic, Slovenia	—	Ikuko Onoe, Japan	—
Ksenija Zor, Slovenia	—	Neha Raju, India	—
FEBRUARY 2012		Jill Rutherford, UK	—
Sebastian Arakal, India	—	Kate Sawallisch, UK	—
Silvio Boka, Serbia	—	Christine Joan Shigeeda, New Zealand	—
Fiona Brewin, UK	—	Richard Spearnock, USA	—
Elaine Galon, Brazil	—	Linda Weijers, Netherlands	—
Stephen Green, USA	—	JUNE 2012	
Hiroko Hikita, Japan	—	Emma Azzopardi, UK	—
Szilvia Mathe, Italy	—	Harry Gerth, Netherlands	—
Naoyuki Moriguchi, Japan	—	Reena Goenka, Singapore	—
Andrea Nespoli, Italy	—	Danna Hallmark, USA	—
Sandra Proctor, UK	—	Jane Kibblewhite, UK	—
Ralph Rawstherne, UK	—	Ana Miletic Milovanovic, Serbia	—
Nadia Sansone, Italy	—	Laura Raijenstein, Spain	—
S. Vijaykrishna Subrahmanyam, India	—	Alan David Rojas, Peru	—
Vasilija Ida Vasic, Serbia	—	Jos ten Vergert, Netherlands	—
Linda Wall, UK	—	Ales Zivkovic, Slovenia	—

How Eric Berne Spoke to Me: From Stimulus to Dialogue to Communion

by Sashi Chandran

Light bulbs flashed within, and I saw a ray of hope in the bleakness and darkness that fogged my thinking when I first heard Eric Berne's message of autonomy and choice. In mid-1981, Nirmala from Vivekananda Kendra, a social organization expounding Swami Vivekananda's teachings, spoke to us, a group of 10 women at my home, on *Games People Play* (Berne, 1964). Thus began my tryst with transactional analysis. I read *Games* nonstop, and it made sense, despite the fact that the exact meaning of the concepts escaped me.

The historical and cultural landscape in which I "met" Berne stood in sharp contrast to his message. I had been tossed by the waves of destiny into an Indian business/agricultural family, growing up in Coimbatore, South India. My mother was younger than 18 when I was born. My father's education was cut short because of the untimely death of his brother, after which my father had to support more than 12 members of his family. I came into a diversity of intellectual pursuit and artistic excellence on my mother's side and an industrious and hard-working family on my father's side.

While growing up with my maternal grandparents, I was surrounded by caring relatives, being the eldest



Nitya Gurukula script workshop participants (from left): Kulaindaivel, in advanced TA training (organizational); Kunhambu, in advanced TA training (counseling); Sashi Chandran, founder director NG; Lovely, resource person NG; Kavitha, advanced TA training (counseling); Shylaja, resource person NG, in advanced TA training (counseling); Koshini, systems consultant NG, in advanced TA training (organizational); Rajakumari, executive trainer NG, in advanced TA training (organizational)

grandchild for my grandfather and his 12 cousins. My grandfather's dabbling in Gandhian politics provided the fertile ground for an ideological approach to life. Relationships were the roots, which sustained and nurtured me throughout. Then came marriage to a successful business family—yes, I married the

in-law, the mantle of holding the family together fell on me. When our two boys came, I woke up to harder realities and questions, such as what values did I want to impart to them?

Using Berne's messages, I began to see that my early experiences programmed me with permissions to Be

Close and to Belong, to “Please others” and “Hurry up.” I was also propelled by injunctions such as Don’t Think, Don’t Be You, and a combination of Don’t Be a Child and Don’t Grow. I felt responsible for many in and outside the family and hesitated to take responsibility for my own behavior. In the first stage of learning, Berne’s message provided a powerful stimulus that set the foundation for my unfolding as a transactional analysis educator and counselor. I got permission from Berne to reclaim my Child and use my Adult, and thus began my self-reflective journey. I found the hope of reestablishing OKness and the human predicament of bio-psycho-cognito-socio patterns that are games (from Nitya Gurukula’s holistic model of human existence, drawn in concentric circles representing the biological [bio], psychological [psycho], cognitive [cognito], social [socio], and spiritual [spirituo] layers and levels of existence. The spiritual layer/level is absent in psychological games). These and the idea of change offered exciting and exhilarating possibilities.

A group of us, united by our search for autonomy, founded the Transactional Analysis Study Circle of Coimbatore (TASCC) in 1983. From diverse backgrounds, we met weekly to learn transactional analysis and apply it in problem-solving sessions. The power of groups to foster development through exposure to divergent (mostly) ways of thinking and behaving dawned on me, and I learned to be a group participant and leader. Experiencing change within, I wanted to communicate the message of change and hope that transactional analysis offers. I began counseling women and students individually and in groups using transactional analysis. Weekly visits to Mother Theresa’s home for

the destitute reconfirmed the power of both groups and the application of transactional analysis for healing and togetherness. Discovering there was more to Berne than *Games People Play*, I began attending the Transactional Analysis Society of India (TASI) conferences. Listening and dialoguing with Fr. George Kandathil, Jacqui Schiff, Pearl Drego, Oswald Summerton, Saroj and Carlos Welch, Tom and Delphine Frazier, and fellow seekers from the rest of India encouraged me to get to know Berne even more deeply. I visited San Francisco in 1983 and became a member of the International Transactional Analysis Association. The warm reception and attention I received at the ITAA office and a visit to Berne’s home made him come alive and confirmed my faith in TA. My Parent values were aired and updated in this stage.

“The challenge of indigenizing TA to make it relevant to the Indian ethos and pathos became possible because of my communion with Berne’s message.”

Dialoguing with Berne’s message began in the second stage, when I used transactional analysis in supportive care for counseling cancer patients and their families at a local hospital. Concepts such as ego states, strokes, and life positions were taught in individual and group sessions to cancer patients and their families to help them manage cancer and its side effects. I also trained and supervised about 30 counselors to work with cancer patients. Berne’s books influenced my perception of reality and the way I responded to it. Overcoming my fear of death and dying, I facilitated terminal patients in dying with dignity.

During this time, I also met my spiritual mentor, Guru Nitya Chaitanya Yati of Narayana Gurukula, who advocated pure knowledge and equality. Berne and Nitya spoke different languages, but the essence of their dialogues synchronized within me. I became a CTA (education) in 1993 and met Charlotte Daellenbach, who was one of my examiners. Charlotte is my transactional analysis mentor and dear friend, who has demonstrated Berne’s contracting and unconditional positive stroking in the multilevel workshops she conducted in South India. Without condescending or losing her professional edge, Charlotte blended into the Indian context, and her spontaneity and intimacy percolated to us TA professionals in her training and supervision sessions. Charlotte brought to me a unique aspect of Berne, which I describe as the East/West synthesis.

In the third stage, Nitya Gurukula, a private trust, with its vision of “The Guru Within,” came about as a result of my communion (Buber, 1937/2004) with Berne, wherein I imbibed the essence of transactional analysis (autonomy) and a balance between professionalism and a sensitivity to humanity. I created this trust for counseling, training in counseling, and transactional analysis and human development to cater to the surge in demand for managing the quantum change occurring in India. The experiential wisdom I absorbed during the learning and practice of transactional analysis is institutionalized in Nitya Gurukula. The challenge of indigenizing TA to make it relevant to the Indian ethos and pathos (Berne, 1961) became possible because of my communion with Berne’s message. Despite the economic boom and globalization, respect for elders and family systems are an integral part of India.

We help clients to use contracts to retain individual dignity and yet to belong in the family. The integrating Adult (Berne, 1961; Erskine, 1988; Trautmann & Erskine, 1981) helps to synthesize Eastern intuitive and relational wisdom with the analytic and logical reasoning of the West.

Nitya Gurukula caters to 50 clients a month and 45 trainees (counseling and transactional analysis). I completed my CTA (counseling) so I could better train transactional analysis counselors. Contracting is used in Nitya Gurukula at all levels as an integral part of our system to operationalize participation and the OKness of our clients and trainees. I am aware that Berne can, at times, sound pessimistic and reductionist (Cornell & Landaiche, 2008), but what comes through to me is his deep sense of humanity.

Berne thus influenced me to create boundaries in a region where boundaryless living is idealized and often leads to chaos. He helped me to dissolve boundaries within and without for communion and healing. And above all, he taught me to value self, others, and the environment. The network of global colleagues and seekers I have met through Berne and transactional analysis reaffirms this communion.

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Call for Papers: Theme Issue on Groups

Transactional analysis began as a group method. Exam candidates are still required to present a tape of group work, and group life remains central to the culture of our community. Our ways of being together in a group, including shared values and theoretical concepts, underpin our sense of community.

The *Transactional Analysis Journal* is planning a special theme issue on groups in October 2013. We are delighted to welcome Frances Bonds-White back as guest editor to coedit this issue with Jo Stuthridge. Frances is the immediate past president of the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes, and she brings a wealth of group experience to this role.

It will be 10 years since the last TAJ theme issue on groups, which was coedited by Bill Cornell and Frances in 2003. We hope this second issue will provide a state-of-the-art review of the way group theory and methods are currently being used across the four fields of transactional analysis practice. Frances and Jo welcome papers from a range of modalities that reflect your professional experience in therapy groups, training groups, supervision groups, organizational and workplace groups, and educational groups. We look forward to seeing articles that discuss aspects of group theory and also illustrate how transactional analysis is being applied in practice.

Please check the TAJ submission requirements at <http://itaaworld.org/index.php/transactional-analysis-journal/taj-submission-requirements> and send your manuscripts to TAJ Managing Editor Robin Fryer at robinfryer@aol.com. The deadline for submissions is 1 February 2013. 



Coeditors,
Jo Stuthridge and Frances Bonds-White

Transactional Analysts for Social Responsibility Midyear Report

by Leonard P. Campos



If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,
(from "Table-Talk" in *Drift-Wood*, 1857)

In our last report, in the March 2012 issue of *The Script*, we summarized reports from Transactional Analysts for Social Responsibility (TAFSR) members for the year 2011. In June of 2012, these members reported they are still involved in applying transactional analysis to social problems. Diane Salters and Gloria Noriega Gayol are continuing their work in South Africa and Mexico, respectively. Others, such as Lucy Freedman and Abe Wagner, send encouraging messages of support. Diane reminds us that it is hard to distinguish between engaging in social action as a TA person and doing so simply as a socially responsible person. She and her colleagues Karen Pratt and Sharon Kalinko continue to provide transactional analysis training in South Africa, among other socially responsible pursuits, either for free or at very reduced rates.

Admittedly, it is difficult to demonstrate operationally transactional

analysis intervention at the social level. One way to do this is to set up a social responsibility network (SRN) that can provide this. Recently, at a local social responsibility network meeting in Sacramento, California, our group met with eight youths born in the United States to undocumented parents. They were walking from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., to garner support for the DREAM Act (which stands for Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors). To summarize, the act would provide conditional permanent residency to immigrants who arrived in the United States as minors, are of good moral character, graduate from high school, and meet other conditions.

Looking into the eyes of these youths, filled with sorrow mixed with hope and despair, we could empathize with the pain they have carried for so long, spending so much of their lives living in the shadows. Our supportive intervention—done from a nurturing Parent position—communicated (1) their essential OKness, (2) their right to social inclusion, (3) encouragement to prevail over the risks they were taking, and (4) empowering them toward freedom from life scripts of social deprivation and hopelessness. We also acknowledged their

missed opportunities when facing a social stroke economy of scarcity.

The opening quote here from Longfellow addresses the social Child part of us that, as Berne said, carries the character of any culture, defined by the collective needs and feelings of its people. Until this key part of society is acknowledged by facing the psychological level of communication without fear of self-awareness, it will continue to be difficult to bring about positive social change.

My hope is that we transactional analysts can stand together to promote such change, and I encourage you to set up a local SRN in your community. If you are interested in joining the informal TAFSR email network, please contact me at Lcampos@ulink.net .

Now that *The Script* has gone digital, we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to easily and quickly share news and photos of transactional analysis activities in your region. Send your submissions electronically to managing editor Robin Fryer at robinfryer@aol.com .

Let's Stick Together

Dear Editor:

I am writing to share my thinking as a European ITAA fan and an EATA member from Slovenia.

Connection to the ITAA and EATA is about connecting to people. Perhaps a connection to transactional analysis is the same as connecting to the people who “do” transactional analysis. I want to thank all of the people who are part of this.

Transactional analysis is a big idea. I attended my first TA conference in Zagreb, Croatia (the former Yugoslavia), around 1989. It was fantastic being part of it at that time, and, I dare say, it was for many others as well.

I think an in-depth analysis is required for us to understand why the ITAA, at least in Europe, is no longer regarded as very significant in terms of what it offers members — at least not as significant as EATA. There are some clear and rational reasons for this, such as the fact that the ITAA is not the association in Europe that oversees most of our training. These days we do not often meet the transactional analysis elders who were identified with the ITAA. The United States is still regarded by some as the home territory of the ITAA, and that is a long way from Europe. And nowadays there are very good teachers in Europe, as there are all over the world.

Even though all these things may be true, I think the real problem lies in the psychological distance many

feel in relation to the ITAA. Some of these feelings are archaic. Having entered a new era of globalism, more and more of us have easy Internet connections and cheap phone lines. These offer new potential to the ITAA because they decrease the distance and the feeling of being distant. For example, I want to thank our president, John Heath, for the support I received from him in our Skype conversation a few days ago. I did not have to purchase a ticket to England to meet him nor did he have to leave his home for us to talk. But we solved a problem and said hello.

To me, there is a uniqueness in the ITAA that we can probably never replace. Its historical identity gives it enormous potential because it is explicitly international and embraces all forms of transactional analysis theory and practice, which cannot be said of any other transactional analysis association. Its mission is to hold every individual all over the world as OK and to reach out to all through the medium of transactional analysis.

But the ITAA is not just an association. It also embodies a message that illuminates our basic ethic and the epistemology of OKness. The ITAA really does stand up for and represent TA's big idea. “It is OK to connect globally” might be a nice title for one of our future conferences. It is also OK to be a member of a national association or an EATA-affiliated association, but

mostly these are not themselves part of the ITAA any longer.

That is a pity, I think. It may well change nothing at the social level for us all to be associated with the ITAA, but it would make a big difference in our sense of identity and in the decision making that comes out of the sense of who we are and who we belong with. It could resolve some of the impasses that exist between various organizational power bases, particularly in the ITAA and EATA, and consequently help the identity confusion some of us occasionally experience.

I am, therefore, sending this unequivocal message to all members of both of those eminent organizations as well as to other great transactional analysis organizations around the world. Many of you probably already know it. Let's stick together. Let's allow the ITAA to hold that for us all wherever we live and whatever kind of transactional analysis we practice. Healing organizational functioning is about healing people. There is no better way to do this than by building connection.

There is more to be said, of course. But that, in its simplest form, is the beginning I offer.

Martin Bertok, Ljubljana, Slovenia

NOTE: This letter was also submitted to the EATA Newsletter and published in the June 2012 issue. 