# **SCRIPT**



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# TAJ Archive Now Online!

by Bill Cornell

e are excited to announce that the entire archive of the Transactional Analysis Tournal is now available at tax.sagepub.com. (It is also possible to Google "Transactional Analysis Journal" and you'll be right there.) Every issue, from January 1971 to April 2013, can now be accessed by ITAA members easily and quickly. Articles can be read online, downloaded for free to ITAA members, and/or searched by keyword. It is also possible to search the entire archive by author, title, and/or keyword, giving unprecedented access to 42 years of transactional analysis literature. Our new system works for both PC and Mac computers. (Nonmembers can also download articles from the archive but for a fee.)

With a few clicks you can read in the January 1971 issue Berne's only article in the TAJ, published only a few months after his untimely death. In that same issue, you will find a biographical sketch of Berne, early photos of him and sites significant to TA, an annotated bibliography of Berne's writings, and John Dusay's analysis of Berne's studies of intuition. Following in that first Journal are articles by Claude Steiner, Franklin Ernst, David Kupfer, Aaron and Jacqui Schiff, Steve Karpman, Muriel Tames, and many other leaders in transactional analysis at that time. And that's just the first issue! There are 169 more in the archive right now and more to come as future issues are added.

You will find special issues on a variety of important themes for TA professionals: counseling, sexuality, social

responsibility, psychoanalysis, ethics, groups, organizations, superviTransactional Analysis Journal

sion, the uncon-

scious, TA and the body, trauma and resilience, redecision, Eric Berne, women's issues, games and rackets, shame, and many more. The articles in these issues show how transactional analysts have dealt with these topics as well as the way theory has evolved to support practice.

The TAJ archive contains most of the articles that have been the basis for the Eric Berne Memorial Awards and much of the material that has become the basis for the foundational theory of transactional analysis. It also provides the best record of the evolution of TA theory and practice over the last four decades and a window into its future development.

Trainees, students, teachers, supervisors, authors, and practitioners can now read almost every *TAJ* article ever published. We are thrilled that the worldwide TA community now has this resource and look forward to the ways in which it will enrich our work, our research, our writing, and our thinking.

Bill Cornell is one of the coeditors of the Transactional Analysis Journal and can be reached at wfcornell@gmail.com.

### Calling All Books!

books, that is. Recent years have witnessed the publication of many new books on transactional analysis and related topics in many languages. As part of the recognition of the 50th anniversary of the ITAA, the Transactional Analysis Journal is planning a special section that will provide summaries and contact information regarding new books authored or edited by transactional analysts. The books we seek to recognize do not need to be specifically and/or only about "TA" proper but can also be publications that draw on TA or are about other topics by

#### **ESCRIPT**

Newsletter of the International Transactional Analysis Association

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authors who are transactional analysis practitioners and members of a TA organization.

If you are such an author or editor, please let us know about your book. Send a brief summary of its contents (400-500 words), the name and city/country of the publisher, the year of publication, the number of pages, ordering information, and price to wfcornell@gmail.com . If possible, send a copy of your book to Bill Cornell, 145 44th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201 USA. If your book is not in English, please provide a summary of your book in both its original language and English.

In addition, if your book has not yet been formally reviewed in the *Transactional Analysis Journal* and you would like it to be, please let us know. We want, in this small way, to recognize and celebrate the many new books that have extended the transactional analysis literature.

# Reviewers Wanted for TAJ on "Loss, Death, and Dying"

Papers are starting to come in for the October 2014 special theme issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* on "Loss, Death, and Dying" guest edited by Ann Heathcote and Steff Oates. We are looking for individuals with experience and expertise in this area who would be willing to act as resource reviewers for these submissions. If you are willing to help, please send a short statement about your experience to robinfryer@aol.com.

#### Old TAJs Wanted

Do you have copies of the Transactional Analysis Journal and/or the Transactional Analysis Bulletin, especially older issues, that you are no longer using? There are trainees, students, institute libraries, and others who would love to have those journals for teaching and training purposes. Please send a list of anything you have to donate along with information about where you are to robinfryer@aol.com . And if you are interested in obtaining TAIs for your use in teaching/training, please let us hear from you too. Then we will do our best to make the necessary connections!

# New TAJ Coeditor Sought

The *TAJ* coeditors are looking for a new coeditor to join the team. If you are interested in being considered, 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 January 2014. §







Noriko Takahashi



Yuzuru Yoshida

# A Rich Harvest of TA Workshops

by Izumi Kadomoto

apan has four clear seasons. In Osaka, site of the 2013 ITAA Conference, where the hot temperatures of August corresponded, symbolically, with the passion and excitement of learning and growing that was occurring during the conference, the weather will have turned to cooler temperatures and fall foliage by the time this newsletter reaches you. It is harvest time in Japan and much of the northern hemisphere. Similarly, the Osaka conference led to fruitful results, which we are happy to share with Script readers. In particular, we had over 100 delegates make presentations and give workshops, and while I cannot, unfortunately, write about all of them here, I want to touch on a few themes to give you a flavor of some of these offerings from the Osaka conference.

#### Suffering and Grieving

A workshop entitled "Stepping Forward Together: Being Me in Difficulties with My TA" by Noriko Takahashi, Yasuhiro Suto, and Yaying Chen dealt with the conference theme. Each presenter had much to say about how they have applied transactional analysis in their own lives and with others in relation to

megaquakes and floods. The participants of the workshop looked back at the presenters' experiences and then put themselves into the sufferers' shoes in reflecting on disasters, devastation, and loss.

Yuzuru Yoshida, who, in addition to working as a corporate trainer, also visits Fukushima regularly, reported on his transactional process using music with survivors living in the devastated area. In his workshop, entitled "Interaction with Fukushima Evacuees," he described how TA is the backbone of this work, and his compassion and love for others was clear in his presentation (see his article in the August 2013 issue of The Script).

However, life is not always full of such warmth. Sometimes there are traumas, separations, and losses. It was notable that there were so many workshops about such themes in Osaka. Pao-Ling Yeh of Taiwan presented her scientific study on the support via TA for victims of major floods in Taiwan. Joanna Beazley Richards and John Baxendale of the UK talked about how to apply TA functional analysis to a traumatized client in their workshop entitled "Using Berne's Energy Theory to

Treat Trauma Victims." In "Working with the Grieving Process," Lis Heath of the UK described the human recovery process in terms of how we understand the word "grieving," including on the level of images and the body. Similarly, Ann Heathcote of the UK, in "Waves of Grief," also dealt with loss and how to handle it in an intensive workshop.

### Knowing Our Roots and Origins

Carol Solomon presented a workshop about Eric Berne and the origins of transactional analysis entitled "How Eric Berne Practiced Psychotherapy." This was a wonderful opportunity for participants, especially many from Japan, to learn about the founder of TA both as a person and a practitioner. Carol, who learned from and with Berne, captured everyone's full attention with her heartwarming multimedia presentation, which allowed participants to realize that Berne was a rather humanistic and warm person.

In other workshops, the growth of infants and young children was considered in terms of TA research and developmental psychology. In "Strokes and Attachment from the Japanese Point of View," Satoshi Miyagi and Ikuko Kin considered the development of the human mind through Japanese attachment theory. Ryuta Kanemaru, in "The Self-Esteem Improvement Program with Transactional Analysis in a Children's Home," presented a framework for applying TA to children in nursing institutions.

For his part, Thomas Ohlsson of Sweden described the origin of human beings in his workshop on "Chinese Scripts." Thomas, who has worked on and off within Chinese culture for over 40 years, interpreted a Chinese poet's life and classic com-



Atsushi Matsumoto and Chie Shigeta

Kendo and TA Workshop





Satoshi Miyagi and Ikuko Kin

Masaru Fujiwara and Kazumi Shirasaka in Japanese Kendo uniform



position in terms of transactional analysis.

#### Encounter Between the East and the West

The Osaka conference was the first ITAA International Conference held in East Asia. There were many workshops by Tapanese presenters, some of which focused on the interface of Tapanese culture and transactional analysis. Masaru Fujiwara and Kazumi Shirasaka presented a workshop entitled "Kendo and TA: Searching for the Common Points Between Japanese Culture and Psychotherapy" in which they focused on integrating TA with the traditional martial art of Kendo. Participants were paired up and faced each other with imitation swords to experience the philosophies of both TA and Kendo. Yumiko Tsuji presented "How to Manage 'Anger': Comparison Between TA and Shingon Buddhism," and Yasumine Sugita presented "Relational Perspectives in Japan: 'Amae' Theory and Strokes" about a unique Japanese way of thinking. In addition, the workshop on "What Can Different Asian Contexts and Cultures Offer to and Gain from TA Concepts," by Rosemary Napper, C. Suriyaprakash, Kuniharu Ogawa, and Karen Earn Lam, symbolized global and East-West interaction.

Nancy Porter-Steele and Curtis Steele of Canada gave a workshop on "Redecision +++" in which the Chambala (sword fight) or Shambhala principle was linked with transactional analysis, and meditation was used and evaluated. Another

Izumi Kadomoto was chair of the academic program for the Osaka Conference. She can be reached at izmmose@va.u-netsurf.jp.

symbolic event was the arrangement of a workshop by Theo van der Heijden and Angelien de Bruiin of The Netherlands inspired by two workshops by Japanese presenters: One was by Chie Shigeta with Atsushi Matsumoto on "Rebirth! Rebellious Child," and the other was by a TA group from the educational field from Osaka.

Members of Tomoko Abe's TA group in Osaka who

Members of Tomoko Abe's TA group in Osaka who participated in the workshop on "Communication and Ways to Motivate Children": back row from left: Theo van der Hejiden, Mariko Tarui, Miwako Ishikawa, Hisako Sunada, Nobuko Hamanaka; front row, from left: Kanako Takeshita, Kiyo Nomura. All are teachers for children outside of schools.

Responding to the workshop with another workshop was very TA like and a successful outcome beyond our expectations.

The Osaka conference turned out to be a 3-day journey from the beginning to the end of the process of recovery and rebirth in diversified layers. We heard about many personal changes and organizational moves described in such ways as, "I rediscovered the versatility of TA," "We developed a new goal and more collaboration," "I had a reunion with my friend," I have new TA friends," and "The ITAA conferences was a great experience for me." We have enjoyed a great sense of achievement from the workshops described here as well as all the others presented during the conference. We again thank the presenters and everyone who participated in making the conference experience

so rewarding and special. We hope that the wonderful experiences we shared in Japan will be passed on to the World TA Conference in San Francisco next year and look forward to seeing many of you there!





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# The New Transactional Analysis World **Council of Standards**

by Marco Mazzetti and Mandy Lacy

n 2012 at the ITAA International Conference in Chennai, India, a working party was established to develop a new constitution for a worldwide training and certification council. This step was taken after the former Training and Certification Council (TACC) suspended its activities as a result of difficulties that had occurred in recent years.

The working party established in Chennai included representatives from the three major regions in the TA global community: the ITAA, the European Association of Transactional Analysis (EATA), and the Federation of Transactional Analysis Associations (FTAA) (representing Australia and New Zealand). From the beginning, the atmosphere within the working party was cooperative, warm, and enthusiastic. The new body, now officially named the Transactional Analysis World Council of Standards (TAWCS), had its birth in those meetings in Chennai.

Marco Mazzetti and Mandy Lacy were members of the working party and are now members of TAWCS. Marco can be reached at marcom.imat@gmail.com; Mandy can be reached at mandy@ lacyconsulting.net.



Some of the people working to develop the TAWCS in Osaka (from left): John Heath, Vladimir Goussakovski, Marco Mazzetti, Elyane Alleysson, Sue Eusden, Mandy Lacy, C. Suriyaprakash, Kathy Laverty, and Susan George

During the months following the conference, a draft constitution was developed and circulated externally to members for feedback. Several members from each of the associations involved reacted enthusiastically in support of the project and offered important ideas. We thank all those who provided feedback: Your comments, suggestions, and perspectives were greatly appreciated and informed the next steps of this process.

At the ITAA International Conference in Osaka, Japan, in August 2013, the working party met to consider the process to date and the ideas that came from the external consultation and to draw up the main guiding principles for the new institution.

A training and certification roundtable meeting was held after the Osaka conference. The new name was chosen, and the new acronym, TAWCS (which sounds like "talks"), reflects the fact that the council is a result of much talking and discussion. The acronym also expresses the willingness of participants to create and support an atmosphere of free, effective, and cooperative communication among transactional analysts worldwide.

Some critical components for the constitution have been decided, such as the nature of the organization as a consultative body; its powers, privileges, and other clauses for the constitution; and principles for continued on page 7

#### TA World Council of Standards continued from page 6

working, leadership, and anticipated outcomes. Ultimately, this group is expected to maintain and enhance the training and certification process in transactional analysis and to establish processes that will guide new developments in the future.

We will keep you informed of the next version of the constitution, including when and where you can review it and make comments.

On behalf of TAWCS, thank you to all who have participated in these exciting developments so far. §

# Award Nominations Sought

Eric Berne Memorial Award
Deadline: 1 December 2013

Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award Muriel James Living Principles Award Goulding Social Justice Award

Nominations Deadline: 1 January 2014

See the ITAA Web site at http://itaaworld.org/index.php/about-the-itaa/itaaawards or contact the ITAA at info@itaaworld.org for details on making nominations for these awards. Send nominations for the EBMA to C. Suriyaprakash at suriya.sunshine@gmail.com . Send nominations for the other awards to Steff Oates at lcfan@me.com .

#### Contacting the $IT\mathcal{A}\mathcal{A}$

2843 Hopyard Rd., Suite 155 Pleasanton, CA 94588 Email: info@itaaworld.org Fax: 925-600-8112 Skype address: ken.fogleman

# Enthusiastic Reception for Berne Archive in Osaka

by Carol Solomon

rriving in Osaka, Japan, for the 2013 ITAA Conference was exciting on many levels. and there could not have been a more auspicious place to make the first full-scale presentation about the Eric Berne Archive Project on a TA world stage. The conference participants gave a warm welcome to the project and to the three of us from the project group who were there: Ann Heathcote from the UK, Marco Mazzetti from Italy, and me from the United States. We were honored by the support for and interest in the archive project, which honors our founder and will keep his memory, work, and influence alive for generations to come.

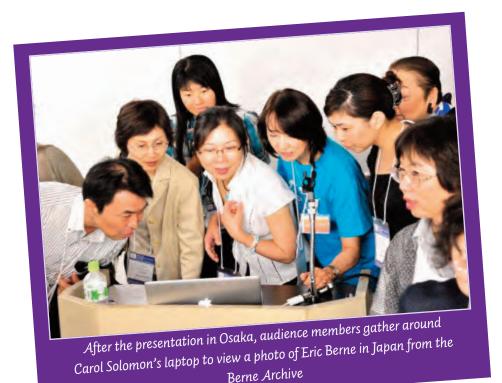
The excitement of 650 conference delegates confirmed that transac-

tional analysis is alive and well in Japan and many other countries around the world and that there is a real hunger for a true understanding of Fric Berne. We as members of the archive team presented the project in depth during the Saturday conference program. We showed slides, which included family photos, diplomas, published and unpublished articles, and papers, letters, and other memorabilia, and we played tapes of Eric's voice. It was so gratifying to hear people say, "Now I feel that I understand Eric Berne differently" and "I understand his work in a new way."

We want to let everyone know where we stand right now: We have almost reached our first fund-raising goal! With just \$2,000 further to go this year, we will have raised \$38,000 to complete phase one of the project. As a result, at the 2014 World TA Conference in San Francisco we will be unveiling, for the first time, the "Eric Berne Special Collection." At that time, a sizable and comprehensive collection of Eric Berne's work will become accessible online through the University of continued on page 8



Berne Archive Project team members with their wonderful Japanese translators (from left): Mayuko Oono, Carol Solomon, Marco Mazzetti, Ann Heathcote, and Mariko Tarui



California library system. This collection will be available, permanently and for free, to all TA students, professionals, and learners throughout the world.

We would very much appreciate your financial support to help us

reach our first goal and then to go beyond that to raise additional funds so that we can increase the size of the collection. Please join the 14 TA associations and 70 individuals who have already contributed. It is easy to donate: Just go to the website at ericbernearchives.org (or click this link) and click on the donate button to make a contribution by check, credit card, or Paypal. If you want to make a bank transfer, please contact Carol Solomon (see below).

If you would like additional information about this important project, feel free to contact any of us on the archive team. Your participation will make a difference in the world of transactional analysis now and for generations to come.

Carol Solomon, PhD, TSTA: solomon.phd@gmail.com or call (415) 929-0500 in the USA

Ann Heathcote, BA, CTA: ann.heathcote@btinternet.com or call (0)7980-559460 in the UK

Marco Mazzetti, MD, TSTA: marcom.imat@gmail.com or call +39 347 3828 418 in Italy

Gloria Noriega, PhD, TSTA: gnoriega@imat.com.mx or call (53 55) 5515-0628 in Mexico

# Bylaws Change Approved

by Bill Holloway

n behalf of the ITAA Board of Trustees and the Bylaws Committee, I express our appreciation for the trust of the membership as it approved the recent bylaw amendment. Of the 67 votes received, 65 were in favor of the amendment.

It will now be possible to proceed with the extensive overhaul of the existing bylaws to create a document that is clear and free of conflicts. Over the years, the bylaws have been amended on several

occasions. Unfortunately, at times an amendment of one section was made without realizing that doing so would also require changes in another section. Another consideration is that the ITAA is a corporation registered with the California Secretary of State. As such, we must comply with occasional changes in corporation rules and legal decisions. Finally, some sections of the bylaws are

somewhat obscure, resulting in misunderstandings by members.

It will be a few months before our legal counsel and the trustees have an opportunity to evaluate the proposed improvements, which must be done before the information is made available for evaluation by interested members. When appropriate, brief progress notices will be published in The Script.

Bill Holloway is chair of the ITAA Bylaws Committee and can be reached at whhbrazil@gmail.com .

# Psychotherapy for Everyone: A Social Service Program in Mexico City

by Gloria Noriega

n 2014 the ITAA is going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding with a special issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* and some shorter articles in *The Script* related to the application of social action activities as a way to honor the social ideals and values on which the ITAA was founded.

Eric Berne wanted transactional analysis to be a social psychiatry, available to everyone who was interested in obtaining psychotherapy, either in a group or as an individual. He did not want such services limited to an elite few who were able to pay the high cost of visiting a psychoanalyst several times per week.

His ideas motivated many people around the world and have been not only successful but inspiring. Some of these, due to their significant positive impact on the world, have been honored with the Hedge Capers Humanitarian Award, established by the ITAA to recognize individuals who have made significant, enduring contributions to humanity in keeping with the ideals and ethics of the ITAA. These contributions are primarily seen as activities that promote the welfare of humankind, especially through the alleviation or elimination of pain and suffering, and have inspired others to contin-



Gloria Noriega with trainees at the Psychotherapy for Everyone program at IMAT (from left): Gerardo Fernández, Rosario Chavez, Gloria Noriega, Tila Pérez, Rubén Parra, and Clarissa Ruggieri

ue honoring this tradition within the transactional analysis community.

I want to thank Len Campos, a past member of the original San Francisco Seminars led by Eric Berne for his efforts to rekindle interest in and awareness of social responsibility in transactional analysis. At the 2010 ITAA conference in Montreal, at which we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Eric Berne's birth, Leonard called on the TA community to renew the social action committee, which used to be a standing committee in the ITAA, and to find a way to provide ongoing and updat-

ed reports on social action activities around the world.

It was as a result of Leonard's initiative that I first reported on the development of a humble mental health contribution, begun in 2003 at the Instituto Mexicano de Análisis Transaccional (IMAT) in Mexico City, to establish a low-cost psychotherapy program. These services are performed by psychotherapists in their last years of training, all of whom have a contract for individual or group supervision every other week with a Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst. The TSTA







Rogelio Hernández

also agrees to supervise these trainees at a low fee.

AT IMAT, the training contract includes 60 hours of social service and 50 hours of individual or group psychotherapy for the trainee. The social service hours can be completed by working for free at a social institution or with private clients at low cost using transactional analysis as their primary method of treatment.

Thus, the Psychotherapy for Everyone social service program at IMAT serves in two ways:

- 1. It offers clients high-quality psychotherapy services.
- 2. It offers trainees the possibility of starting a private practice under supervision at the institute and a way to apply transactional analysis methodology that is safe for both the client and the psychotherapist in training.

The following steps must be completed to obtain services at IMAT:

1. The client fills out a form that can be downloaded from the IMAT website (www.imat.com.mx), or he or she can ask for information by phone and fill out the form at the institute.

- 2. The supervisor receives the form and gives it to an advanced trainee.
- The assigned trainee makes direct contact with the client and sets up a first appointment at IMAT.
- 4. Based on his or her financial circumstances, the client agrees to pay a fee of between \$4-10 dollars per hour at the time of each session.
- 5. Once the trainee begins working with a new client, he or she will bring the case to supervision group or ask for individual supervision.

When we started this program, we offered psychotherapy for free, but that did not work. It seems that people need to pay even a small amount in order to appreciate what they are receiving. We learned that to keep an OK/OK relationship between client and psychotherapist, as in any other relationship, it is necessary to have a balance between giving and receiving.

From 2003 to 2013, psychotherapists in training at IMAT saw 243 individual clients, which means about two clients per month. This is in addition to groups run for free at goverment or social service institu-

Beyond the individual cases, another interesting initiative is that some of our trainees have been working with groups in the community, in social campaigns, and in government and social service institutions. Here are some current examples:

- 1. Rogelio Hernández ran a parents' education program at Centros de Integración Juvenil, a goverment institution in Mexico that provides services to family members of teenagers who use drugs. Rogelio, who began his private practice as a psychologist when he was 64 years old, offered these free seminars for several years, designing the program based on the theory and practice of transactional analysis.
- 2. Clarissa Ruggieri, a trainee from Italy who now lives in Mexico City, is offering free psychotherapy to teenage girls at an Albergue, a house where low-income parents leave their children while they are working.
- 3. Leticia Martínez offers a selfesteem women's group in a poor community next to a factory in the suburbs of Mexico City.

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Gloria Noriega, PhD, Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (psychotherapy), is a past president of the ITAA and the winner of the 2008 Eric Berne Memorial Award for her work on transgenerational scripting. She is the director of Instituto Mexicano de Análisis Transaccional and lives and works in Mexico City. Gloria is also a guest professor at other institutes and universities in Latin America and Europe. She can be reached at gnoriega@imat.com.mx.

4. Tila Pérez, a doctor in biology and a university professor, presented a project entitled "The Connection Between All Living Beings Is the Lesson of Biology" as a social campaign based on the theoretical concept of transgenerational scripts (Noriega, 2004). It focused on developing consciousness about the common genealogy that exists in all living beings and the need to be aware of the impact of our daily thoughts, emotions, and behavior on future generations.

The creation of the Psychotherapy for Everyone program was inspired by Eric Berne's (1972/1994) intention to find answers to the questions posed by the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: war or peace, famine or plenty, pestilence or health, death or life? We are happy knowing that many people have had the opportunity to grow and enhance the quality of their lives

#### Name Change in UK

The Institute of Transactional Analysis has finally completed all United Kingdom requirements to change its company name. As of 7 June 2013 the ITA will be known as the United Kingdom Association for Transactional Analysis (UKATA).

after participating in the program. While they improved their mental health, they also found more opportunities to experience peace and abundance in their lives.

I want to use this opportunity to thank all of the trainees at IMAT who have worked, sometimes very hard and under difficult circumstances, to respond to our client's needs and requests. These trainees are now collecting the harvest of their commitment and goodwill in the development of their skills as psychotherapists and counselors.

Social action is an important element of the humanistic heritage of transactional analysis. Our hope is that we all may continue sharing such contributions as a way to enhance the well-being of people in this world.

#### **REFERENCES**

Berne, E. (1974). What do you say after you say hello? The psychology of human destiny. London, England: Random House. (Original work published 1972)

Noriega Gayol, G. (2004). Codependence: A transgenerational script. Transactional Analysis Journal, 34, 312-322.

**Editor's Note:** We at The Script are aware that most of the socially responsible transactional analysis work is being done without much ado. Most of the TAFSR articles we publish are submitted only when we encourage their authors to write about their work. Yet there is a great deal of important work being done by transactional analysts around the world about which we hear little. So, even if you are reluctant to publicize your work because it feels like "bragging," please consider telling the rest of is about what you are doing in the area of transactional analysis social responsibility. It is a real inspiration to us all. 6

#### **Make Sure to Reset Your ITAA Website Password**

We are in the midst of switching our website to a new platform that will function more reliably and flexibly. Our first step is to move the member account database to this platform. For security reasons, we need all members to reset their passwords, a quick and simple process:

- 1. Go to http://itaaworld.org/crm/user
- 2. Click on the tab that says "Reset/Forgot Password."
- 3. In the appropriate box, enter the email address with which you are registered with the ITAA. Then click "Email new password." (If you have more than one email address and the first one you try does not work, try your other emails until one does.)
- 4. You will very shortly receive an email with instructions for resetting your new password.

Make sure to reset your password so that you retain your access to member areas of the ITAA website (including your personal profile, the member directory, etc.). And please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

ITAA Administrative Office: admin@itaaworld.org

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#### 6-9 August San Francisco

**San Francisco Airport Marriot Waterfront** 

CTA/TSTA Exams: 5-6 August

**TEW: 10-12 August** 

#### How Was TA a Game Changer for You?

By Emily Keller

ifty years ago, when he published Games People Play, Eric Berne's thoughts and theory were, indeed, a game changer. He lived at a time when the essence of "I'm OK, You're OK" was awakening in the hearts and minds of men and women around the world.

Fifty years ago, Berne's thoughts about the importance of strokes had not yet been validated by science. Today, specialists in the fields of neuroscience, attachment, relationships, and more accept the importance of physical and social attention as common knowledge.

Fifty years ago, the people who were willing to risk their lives for the advancement of these ideas had never heard of Eric Berne. And most of the people who are living today and working toward social progress and justice still have not heard of Eric Berne or transactional analysis.

If the basic concepts of transactional analysis are accepted as common and are not unique to the theory, then what purpose can TA serve in the next 50 years? And what purpose does a 2014 world conference serve?

Throughout history, ideas similar to Berne's—about the basic dignity and value of all people—have progressed. In Berne's time, and shortly after, there were major leaps forward in these areas. People from all walks of life began espousing and promoting similar ideas. Rapid changes and progress in the rights of people disrupted social norms and power structures across the globe.

Today, as a global society, we continue to move toward the "I'm OK, You're OK" position, though we often stumble along the way. The cost of our stumbles, however, has been increasing. At some moments, it is hard not to wonder in which direction we are headed.

However, ideas alone will not advance society, as Berne himself realized. He, his colleagues, and many people after him have developed practical models and other tools with which to make a difference in the world. These tools help people experience what "OK" feels like.

For many of us, the experience of what it means and feels like to be OK was a game changer. Even if the knowledge might be common, the experience is not. When we stumble as we move forward toward an OK-OK society, today the repercussions of our falls vibrate throughout our lives, our families, our communities, our cultures, our nations, our world. More than ever we need "TA Now"; we need a "World Game Changer."

**Editor's Note**: As a way to honor the 50th anniversary of the ITAA and to support the 2014 World TA Conference, The Script is planning a new column for the coming year focused on "How TA Has Been a Game Changer for Me." We would love to hear your story (1000 words or less). Please email your contribution to robinfryer@aol.com.

Sign up at www.usataa.org/2014worldtaconference to be notified when the Call for Proposals is available online and for other updates about the conference.

> For more information about the conference, visit www.2014worldtaconference.org or contact Conference Chair Lucy Freedman at 2014worldtaconference@usataa.org.