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We Are All in This Together

by Elana Leigh and Robin Fryer

As we write this in mid-March, the COVID-19 pandemic deepens its hold on our world. By the time you read this 2 weeks from now, things will be different and possibly worse in some areas. We do not know how this will unfold from here. What we do know is that we will all be affected, probably for weeks if not months to come.

The most profound truth that this pandemic reveals is how connected we all are, how vulnerable we are in those connections, and how we must find strength in them to develop ways to work together to mitigate the crisis and learn the lessons it has to teach.

So much of what is happening is out of our control. There are some things that we can do, including physical distancing to reduce the number of cases

so our healthcare systems are not overwhelmed. But in many ways there is no template for how to navigate this global emergency. What we know from our work and training as transactional analysts is that although we cannot control

much of what happens outside of us, we can affect how we respond and react. And in these times, our responses can affect outcomes, including who lives and who dies. So it matters that we each feel a sense of agency in doing what we can to protect not only ourselves but our families, neighborhoods, communities,

and countries. Even though things may be very different once we get through this pandemic, we can affect the kind of world we will become if we stay engaged and bring the ethos of transactional analysis to bear on what happens.



Desmond Tutu

We have been thinking about what, in particular, we as transactional analysts can bring to this challenge. It seems to us that we have from Eric Berne—who was deeply interested in and committed to the wider world—a deep acknowledgment that our job in this life is to address “the questions posed by the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: war or peace, famine or plenty, pestilence or health, death or life,” on the one hand, and to promote to every individual the ethos of “I’m OK, You’re OK,” on the other. By the latter we do not mean a feel-good, upbeat version of happy talk but a profound existential blueprint for equality, equity, compassion, and dignity for every living thing, human and otherwise, including our planet as a whole. This needs to become the life story of our species, our planet, and everything on it. Our challenge is how to live it out not only in the midst of this pandemic but during every moment of every day, each person taking responsibility for doing their part.

Neither of these tasks is easy, and there are no glib answers for achieving them, just as there are no facile solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot underestimate the job ahead nor afford to offer pat solutions or preach superficial hope. We have to face the challenges squarely. The stakes are very high. We have to dig deep within ourselves as individuals, as transactional analysts, as a community to find ways we can use what we know to help our world face what may become almost unthinkable, whether it be this pandemic or the fires, floods, food insecurity, masses of refugees, and the extinction of species, all concerns that plague our world. We are learning that what happens to others across the world may well happen to us sooner than

we think. We need to use the gift of our common language to transcend borders and ideologies, to show others the path to creating communities of connection and concern.

We know that most of us will experience some, if not a lot, of disruption in our work and daily lives. In spite of that, look for ways to practice what some Canadians have dubbed “caremongering”: caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable, which for many of us includes not only family and friends but clients and patients.

“The most profound truth that this pandemic reveals is how connected we all are, how vulnerable we are in those connections, and how we must find strength in them to develop ways to work together to mitigate the crisis and learn the lessons it has to teach.”

We must not allow despair or anxiety or grief to lead us to squander the opportunities these terrible times present to us: the chance to envision and take steps toward a world in which we care for each other and the planet much, much more; a world in which we move toward less consumerism and more connection, toward allowing more time for contemplation and reflection instead of filling our lives with busyness and digital clutter, toward honoring meaning, community, intention, clarity, and purpose not just once in a while but every day. In these desperate times, we need to listen to scientists, researchers, and medical professionals for facts; to our elders for the wisdom they can offer having lived through difficult times before; and to our young people and children, who remind us of what really matters.

In that spirit, we take great hope from the way our community, including our board of trustees, models the kind of world we need, one in which we operate from a position of trust while encouraging divergent voices in telling stories from their parts of the world and looking together for common ground. Each brings wisdom from his or her culture to help us resolve disagreements and forge alliances that benefit us all. The important thing is not how much we agree but how we handle our differences.

And from that position, we are forging ahead with the life and work of the ITAA in order to strengthen its capacity for making a positive difference in the world. We bring you news in this issue of *The Script* about some important developments that we believe may lift your spirits and give you a feeling of solidarity with our community. These include new awards honoring some of our finest, the establishment of a new committee on social engagement, an exciting social-action-focused TA 101 to be made available for free online worldwide, a new issue of the *TAJ*, a special online-only *TAJ* celebrating its 50th year of publication, and efforts to protect member privacy via consent forms.

We know you have a lot to deal with right now; we all do. But we hope you will take a few minutes to read this issue to see what your TA community is doing to make this a better world. And then do your part in the context of your membership in our international community: vote in the ITAA election, make sure you have sent in your consent form, support the social action TA 101 with a donation. Every action matters, you matter. We are all in this together. 📍

Reflections on Working During the Pandemic

We know many of you have faced major challenges in your work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We'd like to know how you are doing, including what has been hard, encouraging, surprising, and inspiring, so we can share with other transactional analysts around the globe. Send your comments to robinfryer@aol.com. Thanks to the individuals below for the following reflections.

Bill Cornell, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Since writing this in mid-March, I have been working with most of my clients by phone or Skype, although a significant number have still chosen in-person sessions. We have modified our office setting to make this as safe as possible. Many clients choosing phone or video sessions have said that it is important that they can see me in my office, a place that is familiar to them. I feel somewhat fortunate in that part of my practice for some time now has been on phone or Skype, so the shock of working remotely is softened somewhat. I can well appreciate the adjustments many other clinicians have had to make. Have we been working as usual? Hardly. Sessions are drenched in concern for loved ones, powerlessness, anxiety, and/or paranoid anxieties. I have often felt invaded by the force of these anxieties. As human relations



professionals, we are all faced with the daunting task of managing our own feelings (in my case fury) while still listening and engaging with how this chaos and uncertainty impacts our clients—and every one will be different. I am exhausted and not looking forward to the weeks ahead. But I think these are times to be both human beings together with our clients and still maintain the unique and essential reflective distance that grants the space and psychic freedom to each client to feel and articulate the particular impact of this disruption and the subsequent vulnerability. This can be a daunting therapeutic challenge.

Ed Novak, Akron, Ohio: I've been doing phone sessions for over 20

years and Skype in recent years. When I do phone sessions, I tell the client that I will be sitting in the chair I'm in when we have our in-person sessions. Because that space is familiar, it helps them to keep me in mind within our usual therapeutic frame. I suggest they find a specific space for themselves, with privacy and limited distractions. In the first phone session, I ask them where they are speaking from and sometimes to describe the space so that I also have a sense of where they are. Sometimes finding a safe, private venue is difficult. I have had clients do phone sessions from their car, a park bench, or on a walk; on my side, I've spoken from hotel rooms, cruise ship balconies, and even the bank of a trout stream. I have found that with an increase in our focus, we can still create a connection that leads to a continuation of the work. Once in a while I have recommended that we not have or continue a session when the client is in a space I don't find conducive to therapy.

Laurie Hawkes, Paris, France: As a transactional analyst, I know about discounting, and I'm pretty sure I was doing that early on, thinking that the virus wouldn't become a serious problem in France. My clients have followed a similar evolution, from denial of the impact of the coronavirus to accepting reality.

Some Useful Links in the Era of COVID-19

[European Association for Psychotherapy, Special Information on Covid-19/Online Therapy](#)

[TASTN: TA Supervisors & Trainers Network UK](#)

[Should Therapists Use Skype for Web-Based Therapy \(from GoodTherapy\)](#)

[Ronen Stilman Working Online Guideline](#)

[Association for Counseling and Therapy Online](#)


[Rotterdam Symphony Playing Beethoven's Ninth remotely](#)

Some cling to the desire to come in for sessions but finally accept that is simply illegal in Paris now. Others are relieved not to have to come. Some don't want any session if they can't have a "real" one. Some want that time by phone or video. I already had a few clients I work with by video, but there's a big difference between having one or two distance

sessions in a day and having mostly such appointments. I find it tiring to maintain contact with people from a distance, so I need more time between sessions. Many of my clients have commented on how this pandemic reminds them of World War II, including people fleeing Paris, stockpiling food, fearing the rise of a black market. In a way this is like a war, but without the missiles, bombs, tanks, or gunfire.

Steff Oates, Manchester, United Kingdom: I am aware of a confusing fear, not so much of dying but of losing others and feeling a responsibility toward those I know would suffer if I were unable to work. Most of my clients expressed gratitude that I was moving to phone or video sessions. Others preferred to wait for reasons I don't understand yet. Many clients who are also clinicians have expressed feelings similar to my own: that work is a blessing even though the space is filled with worries about health, income, and a feeling that the world will never be the same and maybe it shouldn't be. It is a disconcerting mix of anxiety, shame at having taken so much for granted, privilege at what we have, and deep sorrow for those less

resourced and more isolated. Many of us are offering reduced cost sessions and doing more to contribute where we can. And then there are blessings in disguise: Many clients are surprised to find phone or video sessions more mutual; some report feeling less one down, something neither of us had been aware of before. Phone sessions have an intimacy that I have been aware of for a while, but the most surprising discovery about video calls is finding how important it is for some clients to see me alive and well.

Sylvie Monin, Geneva, Switzerland: I have been thinking about the four steps in a process of change and resilience: denial, resistance, exploration, and implication. I went through them myself before the impact of the pandemic became frighteningly clear. It took a while for my clients, too, to begin talking about the virus. Initially, many of them used black humor, being worried, maybe even scared, but trying to hide it behind jokes. In Switzerland we have been asked not to work face-to-face except in emergency cases. I had not previously consulted much by phone or video, but I decided to offer those possibilities to my clients so that I could still be there for them and accompany them on their journey in these troubling times. To my surprise, the vast majority chose to withdraw and did not want to do either. Maybe it has to do with the resistance phase, recognizing that this severe situation requires new ways of working yet still resisting the idea. I also wonder whether my own initial denial and resistance as well as my little experience working remotely may have unconsciously stimulated resistance rather than exploration in my clients. Maybe finding answers to my own unconscious dynamics will allow me to open the door to exploration for us both. 

the SCRIPT

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File a Consent Form by 20 April or Lose TAJ and Script Access

by Steff Oates

We strongly recognize that during this difficult time of the coronavirus, it is not easy to focus on what may seem like mundane matters. However, the matter of privacy is rarely mundane and is an issue that the ITAA takes very seriously on behalf of our members.

Currently, 20% of you do not have consent for electronic transmission forms on file, which means that because of privacy requirements, your access to the *Transactional Analysis Journal* and *The Script* teaser will cease on 1 June if you do not return a signed form by 20 April. You will no longer be included on the list we send Routledge/Taylor & Francis for the *TAJ* and the list used for *The Script* teaser. If you are in doubt about whether you have a form on file, email me at lcfan@me.com and I will let you know.

We need signed forms on file for all members in order to comply with legal requirements. The ITAA is a

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California nonprofit corporation and as such must have a privacy policy. Ours can be accessed via the following link: <https://bit.ly/390ItUe>. This policy clearly states how we use the data you have given us in order to:

- Provide you with ITAA membership services
- Provide you with information you have requested
- Send you information about upcoming ITAA events, seminars, elections, and conferences
- Provide you with ITAA publications and printed materials to which you have subscribed

In addition, Routledge/Taylor & Francis, publishers of the *TAJ*, are based in Europe, where there are now strict regulations with regard to data protection. The general data protection regulation (GDPR) law states that every organization that holds or uses personal data (such as email addresses) is required to demonstrate that there is no misuse of that data. To be GDPR compliant in keeping with our contract with Routledge, we must have a signed consent for electronic transmissions

form on file for each member who receives *TAJ* access.

If you have not already sent in your form, please do so as soon as possible using the form you will find at <https://bit.ly/2Qe5yYD>.

Important Note Regarding Consent Forms and the ITAA Election

There is currently an important election underway in the ITAA for the positions of president-elect and the Australasia representative (the latter of which is voted on only by members from Australia/New Zealand). Those of you who have not yet completed a consent form will receive your ballot in the mail and must return it by fax or post to the ITAA office. Those who have a consent form on file may return your ballot by scan/email to ken@itaa-net.org. Please follow the instructions on your ballot. If you have not received your ballot, make sure to check your junk email folder and add janet@itaaworld.org to your contacts list. If you need help, contact ITAA Vice President Development Deepak Dhananjaya at deepak.dhananjaya@gmail.com. 📧

Lifetime Achievement Award Established in Honor of Fanita English

At its March 2020 meeting, the ITAA Board of Trustees voted to establish the Fanita English Lifetime Achievement Award with the first recipient being Fanita herself. Few individuals have had as much impact on transactional analysis throughout the world over so many years in so many ways. After her childhood and early adult life in Europe, Fanita immigrated to the United States to escape the Nazi invasion of France. She trained in psychoanalysis, but after becoming disillusioned with its lack of effectiveness, Fanita turned to the new theory and method of transactional analysis, first through reading Berne's *Transactional Analysis in Psychotherapy*, then by attending a TA 101 taught by David Kupfer and Bob Goulding at the home of Natalie and Morris Haimowitz, and eventually

by moving to California to study and train with Berne and David Kupfer, the latter of whom was a central figure in her professional development. Fanita also trained in gestalt and went on to establish the Eastern Institute for TA and Gestalt in Philadelphia. Soon after she began traveling around the world teaching and training in transactional analysis. She was among the first to take TA to Europe and was especially instrumental in helping it to become established in Germany. Fanita has written numerous articles and book chapters on TA, including many that continue to be referenced widely. She was twice honored with the Eric Berne Memorial (Scientific) Award (in 1978 for her work on rackets and in 1997 for her work on episcrypt) and in 2010 received the EATA Gold Medal. On hearing about this new



Fanita English

award, Fanita, who turned 103 in October 2019, said she was “overwhelmed and grateful” and that she “didn’t start out to achieve anything and feels fortunate to have had the opportunities I have enjoyed.” Fanita has inspired so many with her creativity, courage, intellectual vigor, and deep compassion, and the ITAA is delighted to be honoring her in this way. If you would like to congratulate Fanita, you can reach her at One Baldwin Ave, #516, San Mateo, CA 94401, USA. 📞

2020 ITAA Awards Highlight ITAA Service and Social Action

We are pleased to announce new ITAA awards for 2020. Diane Salters and Krispijn Plettenberg will receive the ITAA Service Award, Leonard Campos will be honored with the Robert and Mary Goulding Social Justice Award, and Sally Holligan will be the recipient of the Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award.

Diane Salters

was nominated for the ITAA Service Award for her contributions to the association over 40 years. Her nominators cited some of the roles Diane has played in the organization: regional rep-



representative for Africa 2004-2009, chair of the Eric Berne Fund for the Future 2004-2007, cochair of the hosting committee for the TA World Conference in Johannesburg 2007-2008, *TAJ* editorial board 2006-2008, ITAA Ethics Committee 2012-2016, ITAA Vice President Research & Innovation 2013-2017, ITAA President Jan 2017- Aug 2019, and currently past president. They wrote

that Diane has personified courage, conviction, determination, sensibility, sensitivity, grace, candor, and above all, humaneness. She undertook several roles at different phases of ITAA’s development, many during troubled times, and steered the organization through those difficulties with deft and firmness while upholding the dignity and OKness of all concerned. She has a vision for the ITAA

as a worldwide TA body and constantly strives to network with other regional bodies. Also cited were her sharp intelligence and clear ethicality. The creation of a unified worldwide TA community has long been an ideal in the ITAA, and Diane has played a part in moving the association in that direction. *Nominators: C. Suriyaprakash, I. A. Mohanraj, Izumi Kadomoto, John Heath, Gloria Noriega, Karen Pratt, Marco Mazzetti, Milly De Micheli, Rhae Hooper, Vladimir Goussakovski, and William Cornell*

Krispijn Plettenberg is receiving the 2020 ITAA Service Award in recognition of his vision and strong engagement in facilitating and developing new bonds between EATA and ITAA together with past and present ITAA presidents.



His nominators commented on how first as EATA Vice President and

then President, Krispijn worked tirelessly to find links between EATA and the ITAA as well as among national associations to develop stronger cooperation. His vision of inclusivity rather than exclusivity led him to engage in regular communication with then ITAA President Diane Salters, which led to the first meeting of ITAA's Board and EATA's Executive Committee in 2017. This important step opened the door to new possibilities and a larger worldwide vision for our TA community. Krispijn also stimulated discussions with the *TAJ* team about making the *Journal* more visible/accessible to EATA members and supported EATA's financial support for the journal. Krispijn also demonstrated his skills and firm stance in promoting TA's philosophy of

mutual respect and responsibility by strongly advocating for democratic acceptance of members at all levels of certification and by serving the TA worldwide community with his passion for equal opportunities, respect, and social justice. *Nominators: Sylvie Monin, William Cornell, Mick Landaiche, Servaas van Beekum, Laurie Hawkes, Nicole Kabisch, and Andreas Becker*

Leonard Campos is being honored with the 2020 Robert and Mary Goulding Social Justice Award for his years of applying redecision therapy principles and methods in his activism related to social responsibility and justice. The nomination statements in



support of his award recalled how Leonard has worked on social justice issues all of his professional life through promoting equality and fair treatment of people of differences. He has been a regular presenter on social justice and peacemaking and has applied transactional analysis and redecision theory in his work. He has modeled cooperative and collaborative behaviors as he advocated for inclusion and diversity. They acknowledged Leonard's role as the lead founder of Transactional Analysts for Social Responsibility and the ways he has combined TA and advocacy at the local community level as well as on a wider national and international level. They cited his many publications and other awards and how his *TAJ* publications on cultural scripting, war, and peace are strong indicators of his global concern as well as his evolving and enduring commitment to using transactional analysis for

social justice. (Leonard's acceptance speech will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Script*.) *Nominators: Felipe Garcia, Janice Dowson, and Dianne Maki-Sethi*

Sally Holligan

is receiving the Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award for her social justice work, particularly with prisoners and refugees. For



some years, Sally has supported an inmate on death row via an organization called "Human Writes," through which she encouraged him to tell his story (see article in the October 2017 *Script*). She has also worked to support refugees in Athens and Paris. (See her digital story [here](#)).

Sally believes it is "important to remember the people we're encouraged to forget and to let them know we care about how they are and what's happening to them." This exemplifies the TA philosophy of OKness and acceptance, which Sally does with a profound sense of humility and respect. She is aware of the ethical restraints on offering psychotherapy within this context so instead offers psychotherapeutic support in the form of listening and building relationship and the conditions for acceptance. With some individuals, she and her colleague have also offered financial and legal support. Sally empowers people who are facing systematic dehumanization, who are marginalized and/or ostracized, by bearing witness to the trauma people are experiencing, and by listening to their stories in a respectful, I+U+, dignifying way. *Nominators: Gemma Mason, Tess Elliot, Marion Umney, Christine Warwicker, Hilary Spenceley, Helen Rowland, Margaret Webb, Eunice Mortimer, Nicola Hart, and Lis Heath* 📍

USATAA's Inclusion, Equity, and Social Action Committee Invites You to Join in Project TA 101

You Can Make a Difference!

Transactional analysis has had a transformational impact on our personal journeys and professional growth. And we believe that the basic principles of worth, value, and dignity of every human being are more important than ever in today's world. People want to learn TA, but for many, there are serious obstacles to participating in a TA 101: the expense, the need to travel to a course, or the unavailability of a course at a manageable time. Now we have a solution!

We are creating an open-access, free, online, on-demand TA 101 course based on the social-justice-focused course presented at the 2019 Raleigh Conference on "Promoting Equality and OKness: Healing the Divisions in Our World." The presenters are Graham Barnes, Valerie Batts, Felipe Garcia, and Vann Joines. This course will be a streamable and accessible video training designed on data-driven, learner engagement strategies. Subscribers will have 24-hour access to the teaching material and thus be able to receive high-quality, interactive education. These unique social justice applications of TA will be important to students and advanced practitioners across all fields of specialization around the world. The course will be shared with the ITAA, modeling collaboration among partnership organizations, not just for the good of TA in the United States but for the good of TA worldwide!

ITAA President Elana Leigh's March 2020 *Script* column recalled "Berne's truest dreams: to make available psychological theories and practice to the people in order to liberate and empower them, respecting high academic standards." The Project TA 101 free online course will make applications of transactional analysis widely accessible to people who want personal development tools for social and cultural change as well as those working within and living in traditionally underserved communities. We want to include in this project as many people from as many countries and diverse communities as possible! And to do this, we need your help—intellectually, emotionally, and financially.

This effort is well underway. We are grateful to the ITAA Eric Berne Fund for the Future for their generous grant to cover the cost of the videography phase of the project and to our other kind donors: Inger Acking, Brenda Barry, Leonard Campos, Janice Dowson, Richard Erskine, John Evans, Ildiko Galter, John Hallett, Bob Hempel, Marina Rajan Joseph, Cathy Katz, Cheryl Leong, Rose Matovich, Dianne Maki-Sethi, Lindsay Stewart, Gloria Noriega, Sue E. Shealy, Reiko True, Abe Wagner, Marion Weisberg, Laurie and Jonathan Weiss, and Christopher Zimmerman.

To find out how you can join the project through volunteer opportunities, please email cheryl@cherylleong.com.

And to donate go to www.usataa.org.

We are excited about the possibilities of contributing to the world in a new way and entering the 21st century with an OK-OK vision. We hope you are too. Together we can make a difference!



Takeharu Matsunaga, from Shizuoka Prefecture near Mt. Fuji in Japan, created this colored pencil drawing of Eric Berne, inspired by Berne's determination to bring transactional analysis to the public. We thank Takeharu for sharing his image with the IESA committee as we continue to bring transactional analysis to the world through Project TA101.

IESAC Cochairs: Janice Dowson, Cheryl Leong
IESAC Committee: Inger Acking, Bob Hempel, Reiko True
Ad Hoc Consultants: Felipe Garcia, Laurie Weiss

New Committee for Social Engagement Established

by Diane Salters

When I began writing this article a few weeks ago, I was aware of a world full of crises—social, environmental, political—that were calling us to action and to a new kind of consciousness. That was before the pandemic. Now, of course, everything is thrown into even sharper relief as a world battling to find its common humanity is faced with just how vulnerable our global community really is. The need is even greater for transactional analysts to step up for a world of “I’m OK, You’re OK, We’re OK, They’re OK” and to find ways to be healing, educative, and effective.

At its March 2020 meeting, the ITAA Board of Trustees (BOT) agreed to establish a committee for social engagement. Its mandate is as follows:

Recognizing the long-standing commitment of the ITAA to actively engage in and support measures within our own association and among our members to promote access to TA and acknowledge social action among our members, the ITAA will set up a standing committee called the ITAA Committee for Social Engagement. Its purpose is to highlight and respond to the social justice issues of our time,

seeking to do so in a way that is true to our “I’m OK, You’re OK” philosophy. The committee will invite members to share the challenges they face in their work with regard to issues such as structural inequality, limitations to access, prejudice, political oppression or injustice, and existential threats to our environment as well as how they are meeting those challenges. The purpose is to broaden discussion, deepen consciousness, and stimulate healthy change both for ourselves as transactional analysts and for our clients. We will achieve this by evaluating our own institutional ethos and structure, inviting articles for The Script, and ensuring space at conferences where these issues can be addressed. We will also initiate or support actions that are within the limitations of the ITAA’s articles of incorporation.

“The board has now decided that it is time to revive this initiative given the pressing nature of the social and environmental issues of our time.”

Transactional analysis has always been strongly committed to the kind of issues this committee seeks to highlight, so in a sense, the commit-



tee is nothing new. The entire ethos of Berne’s work was the empowerment of patients in their own healing. The radical psychiatry movement that followed (Claude Steiner and Hogie Wyckoff being key proponents) was also concerned with issues of social power, alienation, equity, and the impact of those on people’s mental health and capacity to function optimally.

In 2010 Leonard Campos established a social justice advocacy group called Transactional Analysts for Social Responsibility, but that ad hoc committee was not formalized by the board. When he stood down a few years later and appealed for someone to take the group forward, no one stepped up. The board has now

decided that it is time to revive this initiative given the pressing nature of the social and environmental issues of our time. ITAA President Elana Leigh, knowing my enduring interest in such matters, asked me to head up a formal committee to recognize the importance of social and environmental concerns for our members and our organization.

As a committee, we also recognize our responsibility to keep ourselves informed and current, challenging our own unconscious biases, cultural lenses, and privilege.

The naming of the committee was our first challenge. The phrase “social responsibility,” while good, seemed to lack power. It emphasizes the role of those in power and their responsibility toward the more vulnerable. “Social justice,” on the other hand, emphasizes the rights of people (and increasingly the natural environment) and their protection under law. However, although it is more empowering of vulnerable groups, it can become legalistic. Eventually, we chose the term “social engagement,” which we hope captures both the moral and legal obligations, both the taking up of responsibility individually and collectively and the recognition of demands for justice. It also carries the implication of active engagement with each other and our social and environmental context to formulate guidelines for action.

ITAA’s ethical principles clearly state that within the helping professions, ethical principles need to

Diane Salters is ITAA Past President and can be reached at disalters15@gmail.com.

address many target groups in order to influence ethical behavior. The main ones are: clients, self as practitioner, trainees, colleagues, and the human environment/community.

There are several ways in which the ITAA, as an organization, has been involved in social action. Our TAlent program is an attempt at equity and access across the globe, and our Eric Berne for the Future and Scholarship Grant Funds also seek to create opportunities. In our awards, we recognize the work individual transactional analysts have done in the arenas of humanitarian and social justice causes. Many *Transactional Analysis Journal* articles have looked at these issues, and many members contribute significantly to social or environmental action efforts. Part of our remit as a committee will be to pull together the people and processes that are functioning well in this area as well as highlighting any weaknesses or blind spots that may need attention. In this we seek to strengthen the processes and activities of the ITAA and our members.

As a committee, we also recognize our responsibility to keep ourselves informed and current, challenging our own unconscious biases, cultural lenses, and privilege. We will seek to be relevant and to open up areas of learning, helping to keep members informed about current articles, models, and discussions on social justice themes as well as pioneering curriculums that account for the social, cultural, political, and environmental contexts of our clients and trainees. What is new is that this committee will give a more formal, structured focus to our ethical principles in action.

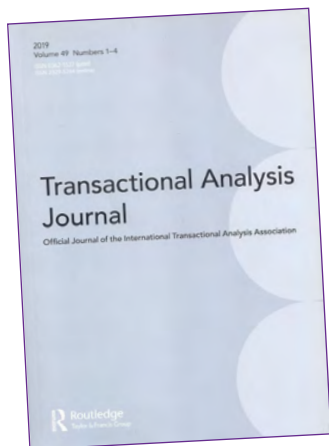
Current members of the committee include Diane Salters (South Africa, chair), Victoria Baskerville (UK), Sashi Chandran (India), Karen Mini-kin (United Kingdom), and Günther Mohr (Germany). We welcome your comments and input; please send to Diane Salters at disalters15@gmail.com. If you would like to contribute an article for *The Script* about work you and your colleagues are doing or on a particular issue, please let us know. 📍

Important Message From the IBOC About Upcoming Exams

Due to the worldwide COVID-19 crisis, future dates for CTA/TSTA exams and TEWs have become uncertain. So far nothing has been officially canceled, but we encourage all exam candidates who are planning to take their exam or participate in a TEW in 2020 not to make any bookings for flights or hotels if you haven’t done so already.

We realize very well that the coronavirus situation is severely interfering with all your preparations and with your life in general. In the meantime, we have started to consider alternative certification routes. That process will take time, and the outcome is still highly unpredictable. So, we mainly ask you to bear with us in these times of uncertainty and most important of all to stay healthy and safe!

Annie Rogers and Jacqueline van Gent
IBOC Cochairs



April 2020 TAJ Now Available

The latest issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* is now available online on the TAJ page of the Routledge website: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rtaj20/current>. An open issue (no particular theme), it offers several interesting articles on a range of topics. These include:

- “Projective Transference in Action: Reflections on the Clinical Use of an Enactment” by Paola Maria Tenconi
- “When a Mind Breaks Down: A Brief History of Efforts to Understand Schizophrenia” by Zefiro Mellacqua
- “Parasitic Personality Organization and Parasitic Relatedness” by Ales Zivkovic
- “Emerging Change: A New Transactional Analysis Frame for Effective Dialogue at Work” by Madeleine Laugeri

In her “Letter From the Coeditor,” Trudi Newton writes, “The four articles that comprise this issue are very different from one another. They deal variously with theory, practice, and reflection, and they all offer new developments in that ongoing story.

They connect through their links to the essence of transactional analysis, the strength of its philosophy, and the richness of its metaphors. Metaphors are a feature of this issue, from revisiting Berne’s early writing about a stack of coins (Mellacqua) to a new parallel to the idea of symbiosis, parasitism (Zivkovic).”

TAJ readers may notice that this issue is a bit shorter than most have been in the past. That is because we are working to stay within the

contracted yearly page maximum we have with Routledge/Taylor & Francis. With a major theme issue on education in January and another special issue in July to celebrate our 50th year of publication, we are devoting more pages to those and fewer to April and likely October.

We think the four articles in April are a very rich offering, however, and we hope you enjoy reading them. As always, we would love to hear your thoughts! 📧

Exciting News! TAJ Online Anniversary Issue

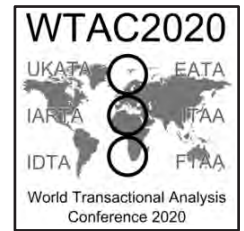
We are excited to announce the first virtual special issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal (TAJ)* in honor of our 50th volume. The coeditors, along with ITAA’s Vice President Research and Innovation, had the mammoth task of selecting just 15 articles from around the 1,500 that have been published over the last 50 years. They decided to focus on recent articles that have broadened and added depth to TA theory with the aim of giving new readers a taste of how transactional analysts and their colleagues are currently thinking and practicing. We appreciate the generosity of Routledge/Taylor & Francis in offering to host this virtual special issue so that it can be made available beyond the ITAA membership as well as to TAJ subscribers. It will be available for free on the TAJ website until 31 December 2020: <https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/rtaj-50th-anniversary-collection/>.

World Transactional Analysis Conference 2020

Expanding the TA Map – Sharing Learning Across Our Fields

16-18 July 2020 - Metropole Hotel, Birmingham, UK

Cosponsored by UKATA, IARTA, and the IDTA on behalf of the ITAA, EATA, and FTAA



Go to www.taworldconf2020.com and sign up to follow us on Twitter, Facebook, or LinkedIn

Conference Update Regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19

Please be reassured that plans are in hand to run an online conference if we cannot meet in Birmingham in July. The best case scenario is that in a few months' time there will be no direct impact on your attendance at the conference. The worst case scenario is that the world is in quarantine lockdown. A middle case scenario is that only people from some countries are able to attend. We are now planning for each case.

If we run an online conference, we will also take into account time differences around the world and agree appropriate scheduling with each presenter. We will still invite you to choose your workshops, subject to the time constraints. We will invite you to join them online from wherever you are, with a presenter who comes online from wherever they are. And they will all be recorded (subject to the nature of the topic) so you will all be able to have those recordings and therefore benefit from seeing many more workshops than you could have attended if you were on site.

We are in the middle of organizing this, so please bear with us. If you have already booked to attend and/or submitted a presenter proposal, you will hear from us soon. If not, please keep looking at the website and follow us on Twitter so you will get regular updates.

- Julie, Susan, Lynda, Carol, Heidi, and Sandra of the Organizing Committee

TAJ Theme Issues

“Concepts of Cure”

Editor: Helen Rowland and
William F. Cornell
Deadline: 1 May 2020

“What Went Wrong and Why? Cathexis Theory and Reparenting Reexamined”

Coeditors: William F. Cornell and
Diana Deaconu
Deadline: 1 November 2020

Please follow the submission
requirements posted [here](#).

Email manuscripts to
TAJ Managing Editor Robin Fryer,
MSW, at robinfryer@aol.com.

The SAATA Conference 2020 will be held in Bangalore, India, 26–27 September. The theme—“Inclusion: Experiencing Differences and Integrating Varied Realities”—is designed to celebrate differences and possibilities for experiencing and integrating many realities when majorities and minorities (age, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, theoretical models, religious beliefs,

political beliefs, etc.) meet together. I am delighted as the convener of the conference to work toward bringing the spirit of this theme alive. We have an enthusiastic conference core group that is working toward making this conference a success, which means that we will be able to face varied opinions and realities with respect and hold the discomfort and excitement as well as build new narratives together. There will be LGBTQ, women's, and men's meetings planned as part of the conference, exciting and fun events, and much more. On behalf of the conference core group, I invite you to block your calendars in September and bring all parts of you to experience the spirit of being together in Bangalore. For more details, visit www.saataconference.org.

Deepak Dhananjaya,
SAATA Conference 2020 Convener

TA Conferences

29-31 July 2021:

Daegu, Korea.
ITAA/KTAC TA Conference.
Contact: srahn08@hanmail.net

20-27 February 2021:

Frenchman's Cove, Jamaica.
USATAA Gathering.
Contact: jamaica@usataa.org