

IN THIS ISSUE

Berne's Script and
TA's Script
3

In Memoriam:
Jean Illsley Clarke
5

ITAA-EATA Webinar on
Race, Difference, and
Intersectionality
7

IBOC News/Updates
9

April TAJ on Research
10

SEC Webinar
11

Past Presidents' Meeting
12

TA Publications
12

Becoming ITAA President

by Chitra Ravi

This past year of working alongside ITAA President Elana Leigh has been immensely valuable in helping me find my bearings as I prepared to step into the role myself. When I accepted the nomination for president-elect in November 2019, I did not expect the experience to be as intense as it has been.

My learning as an "apprentice" was deeply enriching. I found myself feeling a range of emotions during the year: anxious, excited, curious, at times even angry. And yet I also found myself connecting well with the many people with whom I came in contact.

Each president has their own leadership style. Elana once asked me, "What kind of president are each of us?" I continue to ask myself that question as I step into the role. Being quite a structured, organized, and "quick to act" person, I learned that sometimes I need to slow down. I have learned to hold the tension, pause, and wait for new meanings to emerge. This is consistent with my professional roles as a psychotherapist and TA trainer



"Belonging creates a sense of ownership. If we change the word around, it gives us 'longing to be.' We can become more of ourselves if we belong in community."

and supervisor. I realized that although many tasks call for quick action, the people leader in me needed to resurface. Learning to rely on the collective wisdom of the board of trustees and the ITAA staff will be invaluable in holding this position with care and responsibility.

I have been president-elect through the thick of the pandemic crisis that has devastated the world. We continue to stagger from its impact as we are faced with the existential crisis of survival in every possible way: economically, in terms of our health systems, employment, and life itself. Looking for a “new normal” and thinking about new ways to support governance and even a new way of life is the need of the hour.

I take on the role of ITAA President as the world battles over staying afloat vis-à-vis these ongoing challenges. This undeniably has an impact on the ITAA too. The board members have been continuously finding new ways of working together for the benefit of the membership: connecting via webinars, offering the first ITAA workshop, seeking new ways via online options for exams and certification, and finding creative and exciting ways through our research and publication teams.

I look forward to continuing the outstanding work of the board, and as usual, our annual board meeting provided us with fresh energy and exciting ideas to focus on during the coming year. I am also looking to carry on the valuable collaboration and dialogue that has been established by ITAA President Elana Leigh and EATA President Peter Rudolf.

Belonging creates a sense of ownership. If we change the word around, it gives us “longing to be.” We can become more of ourselves if we belong in community. This idea is adapted from Sari van Poelje’s keynote video, which was meant to be delivered at the 2018 Kochi Conference but could not be because of the flooding. My past years of work with the South Asian Association of Transactional Analysts (SAATA) and the ITAA have supported me in gradually moving from the “I” to the “We.” I see this as an ongoing journey, with its challenges and yet often a deep sense of fulfillment.

The ITAA belongs to all of its members because each of us belong to it. I invite you who long to be a part of this community and organization to come forward and contribute in whatever way you are willing. We would like to continue hearing your thoughts and ideas so that you con-

tribute to our collective vision for the years ahead.

I thank the ITAA membership and the board for giving me the honor of taking on the role of the ITAA President. I am committed to doing my best, and I know my success will be realized through collaboration with the highly competent, energetic, and creative teams of the ITAA board, committees, staff, and most importantly you, our members. 🙏

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“Our Roots and Our Wings”: Berne’s Script and TA’s Script

by Laurie Hawkes

On Friday, 18 June—a sunny morning in Paris with our newly recovered freedom to move about—our association’s members were offered a special treat. The board of the Institut Français d’Analyse Transactionnelle (IFAT, the French TA association) had invited Bill Cornell and Terry Berne to discuss aspects of Eric Berne’s life and script and how they impacted the script of TA and TA associations. Although Terry could not be physi-

“One aspect of Berne and TA and our ‘schools of TA’ that Bill elaborated on is a form of paranoia. That particularly caught people’s attention. It seemed natural for Berne to develop some degree of paranoia after all those losses and even betrayals.”

cally present because of COVID travel restrictions, we had him via Zoom on a large screen visible to the whole room. And on stage, Bill, who had been allowed to fly to Paris from the USA, was joined by a wonderful interpreter, Jean Razous.

This was an important and exciting moment for both IFAT and the participants because it was our first time together after more than a year of remote contact. We wore masks and sat one seat apart, but at lunch it was even possible to be served food in restaurants, albeit mostly outdoors.

Terry Berne offered comments about family life with his often absent but fun-loving father, who took the kids to the beach and various places. As a husband, our euhemerus seems to have been less satisfactory since he was “married to his work.” Terry described how the persecutions of the McCarthy era weighed heavily on Berne. Terry also told us how he had edited the enormous manuscript that his father had written about his childhood in Mon-



Bill Cornell (left) and interpreter Jean Razous

treal, removing the many allusions to rugby. The book—titled *A Montreal Childhood* and translated into French as *Mon enfance à Montréal*—is a wonderful read, especially touching for us as transactional analysts.

Bill brought together Terry’s descriptions, that book, and Berne’s biography with his own understanding

of the toll taken on Berne by the succession of major losses in his life: his beloved father when Berne was only 10, the “old stone house” (as Berne called the Montreal house), his country when he moved to the United States, so much because of the investigations of supposedly “anti-American” activities, his job as the chief doctor in a hospital department, his passport, his freedom to travel. The audience was moved to imagine that weight, and they were touched to watch Terry’s face on the screen as he listened attentively to Bill’s empathic explanations.

In reflecting on the seminar, Bill says, “I was honored (and rather overwhelmed) by the invitation from IFAT to offer a day of thoughts and reflections on Berne’s complex and often difficult life and how it shaped transactional analysis. It was delightful and moving to do it with Terry Berne. It was challenging to look at TA theory and practice through that particular lens. The day was deeply enriched by Terry’s open account of his father. There were over 100 participants, and the group was very involved, asking wonderful, thoughtful questions that added even more depth and insight to the day. And I so appreciated Jean Razous translating with his usual grace and skill.”

One aspect of Berne and TA and our “schools of TA” that Bill elaborated on is a form of paranoia. That particularly caught people’s attention. It seemed natural for Berne to develop

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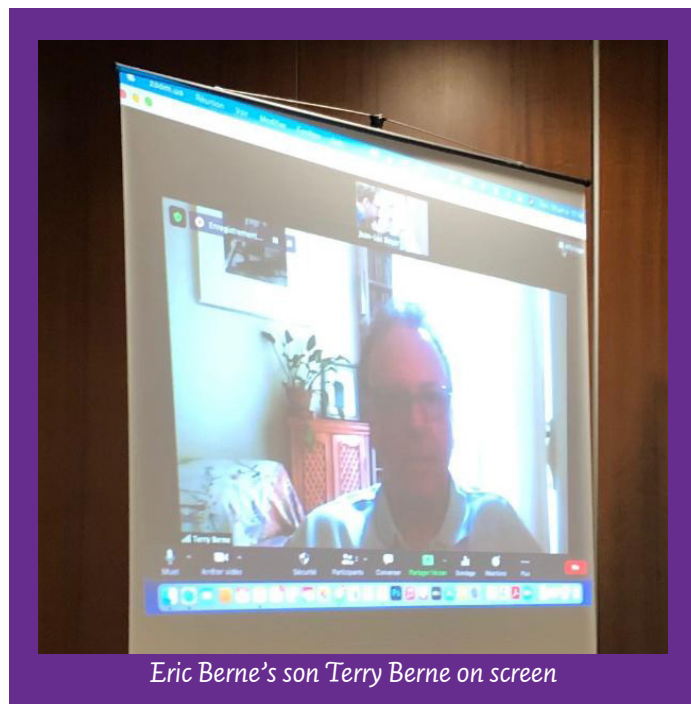
Participants listening to Bill and Terry discuss the influence of Eric Berne’s history on TA

some degree of paranoia after all those losses and even betrayals, for example, his research and writing being considered anti-American when they were a gift to human understanding, being rejected as a psychoanalyst because of being innovative, and so on. This distrust can be found in TA theory in terms such as “racket” or parts of “formula G” (with “hook,” “con,” “cross-up”) and the names given to many psychological games. Berne’s elegant writing style is so often somewhat cynical, and we can tend to become cynical along with it.

By the end of the day, in the emotional atmosphere of reexperiencing contact with our colleagues,

most of us left with a renewed sense of attachment to and understanding of the founder of our theory. Many thanks to Bill, Terry, Jean, and IFAT and its dynamic young president, Jean-Luc Boyer.

The seminar was filmed, and plans are to make it available. Watch upcoming *Scripts* for details. 📺



Eric Berne’s son Terry Berne on screen

Jean Illsley Clarke

by Trudi Newton

As I write this at my desk, I can see on the wall to my right a poster made by Diane Salters to share the developmental affirmations that really define Jean Illsley Clarke's thinking, beliefs, values, and teaching—and to my left on my bookshelf are these same affirmations translated into Russian and a set of "happy cards" from Tomoko Abe with the affirmations in Japanese.

Our beloved friend and colleague, Jean Illsley Clarke, TSTA-E, died on 30 June, peacefully and at home, having decided for herself to accept remedial care rather than rehab after a fall resulted in a serious fracture to her thigh. She was 96 years old, and, I believe, for every one of those years, she was filled with energy, curiosity, and passion for life. Widely recognized as a leading parent educator, Jean was the author of numerous books, honored by the University of Minneapolis, and winner of the 1995 Eric Berne Memorial Award.

But this recollection is less about her accomplishments than about who she was and what she meant to so many. Jean's professional life over the last 50 years combined two

worlds: the parenting education programs and research that influenced and restored so many families around the globe and, linked to that but distinctive, the world of TA, in which she was also influential and significant. From the early 1980s, she promoted the educational importance of TA concepts and the way in which they could be applied—differently from in therapy but equally meaningfully—to learning, development and personal growth.

"Jean was 96 years old, and, I believe, for every one of those years, she was filled with energy, curiosity, and passion for life."

"Jean was all about learning," says Janice Dowson, who first met Jean in the 1970s when they were exploring the possibilities of TA together. "In workshops and casual conversations she demonstrated maximizing people's potential and their self-esteem at every stage of development."

Giles Barrow writes, "In my view, Jean was the founder of the field of educational TA. She was the



great-grandmother from whom all other TA educators have come. Some of us worked directly with her, many of us have learned from those who did. I suspect every one of us can trace part of our TA 'heritage' back to Jean."

Jean's work and influence was (and is) worldwide, and everywhere she traveled—to conferences, to give workshops, and to share ideas with her much loved educational colleagues—people noticed her special way of doing and being. Tomoko remembers her "relaxed teaching style, yet stable lecture content" and says, "From the first time I met her, she always took me by my arm and led me to a new stage with a smile, and I am deeply grateful for her. She had such a charming style as an educator. She is my psychological leader. To honor her, I hope to continue

providing opportunities for as many people as possible to reclaim their identity through TA.”

Visiting European conferences was important to Jean. Susannah Temple recalls how in 1988 Jean had come to the Blackpool, United Kingdom, conference in the hope of meeting some educational TA people. “She was successful. We gathered in a spare hotel room with other TA educators from France, Switzerland, the UK, and elsewhere to make friends, share ideas, learn from each other, laugh, and have a good time together. This sort of gathering became a conference highlight over the years for many people.”

Jean will be widely missed. For Rosemary Napper, Jean demonstrated powerful ways of working that Rosemary has used ever since. Jean also demonstrated wisdom in the way she worked and most of all her love and care. Rosemary recalls, “As I got to know Jean, it was as if I had acquired a new family member.”

For Jan Grant, Jean was the first TA educator she met. “What struck me from the beginning was her warmth and acceptance. She visited Australia twice, running courses that people still talk about today. She loved to explore and have fun. She shared her home with others in Minneapolis. She was generous, smart, creative, and a dear colleague and friend who will be missed enormously. What a gift she was to the world!”

This brief memorial can only give a flavor of our stories and recollections about Jean. I hope that in the early autumn we in the ITAA can hold a Zoom gathering to further celebrate her life and legacy. 📍

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Reflections About Jean From Diane Salters

Jean lived a long and inspiring life. I knew her as a colleague and a woman of great curiosity, generosity, and commitment to TA and to her work with children and their parents. I also knew her as a politically astute and active citizen. I will share a few anecdotes that I hope will reflect some of this.

I first knew Jean through her wonderful books and the way in which she had developed and expanded Pam Levin’s work to make the affirmations applicable across all fields and into adulthood. So it was with some surprise that I discovered at a conference that Jean, already well on in years, was finally going to take her TSTA exam. I volunteered to be part of the TA 101 audience. Of course, she was a wonderful teacher. This served as inspiration to me when, having left my PTSTA for many years, I decided to redo my TEW and subsequently take my own TSTA many years after my CTA. If Jean could do it later than expected, so could I!

Another vivid memory is of a presentation at a conference in the UK. US politics was, at the time, heating up in various ways that felt unsafe for the whole world. Jean did a drama therapy enactment with us. We all took roles as figures or interest groups and proceeded to reveal the underlying political and psychological power imbalances. It was a profound experience and expanded my political awareness and interest in the use and abuse of power.

Finally, I want to talk of Jean’s generosity in allowing us in South Africa to use her developmental material in beautiful rainbow posters that we sold to raise funds for the South African TA Association and to intro-

duce more people to the affirmations. Her openhearted response to our request was so encouraging for our small association.

Hamba Kahle Jean, you will be missed—and ever remembered with love and admiration. 📍

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Welcome, New Members

MAY 2021

Caroline Bosco, India
Sandra Burlace, United Kingdom
Isabella Burns, United Kingdom
Maja Delibašić, Serbia
Cristina Farrugia, Malta
Tom Harris, United Kingdom
Pooja Kamath, India
Aiko Kawaguchi, Japan
Gill Murchie, United Kingdom
Taral Patel, India
Alies Tax-Alberts, Netherlands
Delia Vasile, Romania

JUNE 2021

Vesna Bajkovic, Serbia
Joy Chatterjee, India
Milana Đapic, Serbia
Bojana Filipovic, Serbia
Radu Gheorghe, Romania
Eyke Greve, Germany
Ljiljana Kovacevic, Serbia
Tatjana Mali Ergelasev, Serbia
Brendan Ring, United Kingdom
Jane Scott, United Kingdom
Hema Sreedharan, India
Luke Stevenson, United Kingdom
Earl Stump, United States
Ana Sustersic, Slovenia
Nicole Turner, United Kingdom
Crena Watson, United Kingdom

The Fifth Joint Webinar Focused on Race, Difference, and Intersectionality

by Steff Oates

Around 100 members of ITAA and EATA joined this exciting webinar on Thursday 10 June scheduled at times acceptable for people in the European time zone. We were fortunate that Dr. Dwight Turner, an activist, writer, and public speaker on issues of race, difference, and intersectionality in counseling and psychotherapy, was able to join us. He recently published a book from which the topic of this webinar was taken: *Intersections of Privilege and Otherness in Counseling and Psychotherapy* (Routledge, 2021). Dwight attended the beginning of the webinar in order to introduce us to the idea of intersectionality and to provide some questions that would stimulate discussion.

Elana Leigh opened the webinar, her last one as ITAA President, by highlighting that “we cannot escape how issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and politics intersect and that individuals and groups who fall into the often-disenfranchised margins of life do so because of the way that we the people who fall within the so-called classified norm collectively construct society to maintain power.”

EATA President Peter Rudolph then spoke about his fascination with Dwight’s book and his awakening to how he has been challenged by the idea of intersectionality. Peter described his upbringing in Germany and how little he was exposed to others who were not like his family and neighbors. In previous webinars, he has spoken about how his world expanded through EATA and how he is now learning much about the challenges of people who may live outside the norm.

Leilani Mitchell kept her introduction of Dwight short because we were all keen to hear what he had to say in the short time he was with us. She thanked him for his generosity in joining us, and we are grateful to Leilani for negotiating his involvement. Dwight then introduced us to the idea of intersectionality, a term coined by Kimberley Crenshaw in 1989 as a way to help people understand the oppression of African American women. Dwight explained that explorations of difference and othering are far more nuanced than focusing on a single identity. Intersectionality examines sexuality, gender, race, ableness, religion,

belief, age, and reassigned gender. He quoted Audrey Lorde (1984), who wrote, “There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single issue lives” (p. 133). Dwight’s view is that when we step into binary notions of norm and other we miss subtleties. That is, if we move to a place where we consider ourselves privileged and look at the under-privileged other, then we have not considered ways in which we may also be other. He gave examples from his own case load in which people had completed a privilege walk questionnaire and been surprised to find that their scores were lower than they had expected (see <http://www.privilegewalk.org>).

As Dwight left, Elana reminded participants that in our webinars we aim to provide a space for open discussion and that the committee members hold the space rather than act as facilitators. She then posed the questions that Dwight had generously given us beforehand: “In what way has difference impacted you in your life?” and “Can you spot the areas of your identity that mark you as an other or outsider?”

We went into breakout rooms to consider those questions and returned feeling challenged, stimulated, and with increased awareness of the different identities we hold. Many people expressed how moving it had been to learn of each other's experience of otherness.

One participant from a country that had been ruled by the Soviet Union movingly described how they had experienced a sense of belonging being imposed on them and how dangerous it would have been to be different in such threatening times. Others commented on how belonging could be coerced and threatening. Another person wrote of similar experiences whereby they had experienced being forced into an unhealthy belonging because a massive Parent culture forced people to attach to one specific religion and customs. Another perspective was that "othering is inevitable given that we are all an other to each other; we all have our intersectional story."

A participant from India wondered why we focus so much on difference and quoted an experience from a workshop in which a British woman had apologized for her country's part in "enslaving" Indian people. The Indian person felt that this was a separating process when in fact she had not felt separate. This generated much discussion about "privilege guilt."

Another person wrote that "some people don't have a choice to not focus on difference because they are confronted and othered in many situations." Another perspective was given in the chat from someone who

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"We cannot escape how issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and politics intersect and that individuals and groups who fall into the often-disenfranchised margins of life do so because of the way that we the people who fall within the so-called classified norm collectively construct society to maintain power."


wrote, "We do not look to difference to separate but to understand each other." Someone else's understanding of this situation was that "White people need to become more aware of our whiteness and white privilege and to acknowledge the enormous privilege we have as a result of our colonial past."

After sharing our experience, we were invited to consider additional questions, including: Are there ways that you also identify with the norm, the majority, and how do you understand the privilege of that position? Which position feels most comfortable for you, to be a part of the norm or the other and why? Many talked of how hard it is to challenge the norm when you are part of the norm, and Elana spoke of her own challenge regarding her views about the Palestine/Israel conflict. Another participant spoke of how feeling isolated is a strong sentiment.

In the chat, someone wrote of our need to "tolerate" the discomfort of our own privilege and not give in to shame and guilt: "It is important to stay with the experience and avoid making it just an intellectual experience." Someone else responded that "initial guilt is appropriate and helpful as a stepping stone toward a different action." Another participant wrote that their "conflict is in standing up for the truth and not be

completely standing with others and compromising the truth."

As the webinar came to an end and people began to sign off, there were comments that summarized the experience as appreciation for a safe and mutually respectful "I'm OK, You're OK" space. Others spoke of it being a thoughtful, provoking, and enriching experience. One participant left us with a great question, which we asked them to put in the chat as we thought it summarized our discussions: "How do we form genuine, authentic relationships with other human beings in spite of differences/privilege/obstacles/superstructures prevalent in our society?"

The next webinar will be held on Sunday 14 November at a time that will be more convenient for our friends and colleagues in the United States and other countries for whom this webinar would have been in the middle of the night. The topic will be "Neurodiversity." 

Reference

Lorde, A. (1984). *Sister outsider: Essays and speeches*. Penguin, Random House.

TAJ Editorial Board Members Sought

The *Transactional Analysis Journal* coeditors are looking for new members to join the editorial board. If you are interested, 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 at robinfryer@aol.com by 1 October.

IBOC News and Updates

by Giles Barrow and Karen Pratt

IBOC/PSC Handbook Update: We are pleased to let you know about three changes to the *Training & Certification Handbook* that have been made following the recent round of online examinations. These changes concern the TSTA exam process only.

The first update is that an addendum has been included that provides a comprehensive explanation of the online arrangements for the examination of the three component parts of the TSTA examination process. We are especially grateful to Sue Eusden and Jacqueline van Gent for both preparing and coordinating the exams in addition to highlighting the necessity for the new addendum.

The second update, which is specific to the TSTA theory, organization, and ethics exam, concerns a change in phrasing for the fourth criterion, which relates to knowledge of ITAA ethical conduct. The new wording is as follows:

4. Awareness of ethical consideration in different contexts (supervision, teaching, training, TA organizations, and the wider community)

And the marking criteria are adapted as follows:

5 Is aware of values and ethical principles and analyzes situations accordingly

3 Some awareness of values and ethical principles, including their distinction

1 Little information about ethics

The thinking behind this change is that it reads more clearly and is also in line with EATA documentation. This change applies to both online and in-person exams.

The third update concerns the TSTA supervision exam. This change also applies to both online and in-person examinations. We are making a change to the first marking criterion for the supervision exam, which refers to the explanation and demonstration of supervision philosophy. In future, the candidate will be given just one mark for this criterion in relation to the overall exam. Currently, two marks are given for each of the supervision pieces. We have found that this can be confusing and is unnecessary.

Neurodiversity and Examinations:

We want to acknowledge that over the past year or so a number of questions have been raised about making the examination process more accessible for those trainees and candidates identifying as neurodiverse (which might include ADHD, autism, dyslexia, etc). We are aware that this is connected to a wider debate about the inclusiv-

ity of TA training and certification, which is a major, ongoing theme and focus for PSC and IBOC. In the first instance, for those already applying for upcoming examinations, we ask that individuals make the exam coordinators aware of specific needs so that provision might be made. Meanwhile, our longer-term intention is to explore options to create a more inclusive system of examination. 📍

Volunteers and Examiners Needed for Upcoming Online Exams:

The IBOC will be running TSTA exams and CTA exams on 9-11 September 2021. If you want to volunteer as part of the audience for a TSTA teaching exam or as a supervisee (CTA or PTSTA level) for a supervision exam on either 10 or 11 September (or both), you are most welcome. Please sign up through the Google form at <https://forms.gle/SHHPujinXfy3HP5E6>. We will provide a pre-exam Zoom training on either 2 or 3 September to familiarize you with being an exam volunteer in an online exam. We also need additional CTA examiners for 9 September. Should you wish to sign up for that role, you can use the same Google form. We much appreciate your involvement!

— IBOC Cochairs Sue Eusden and Jacqueline van Gent

April TAJ Has Special Focus on Research



The April 2021 issue of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* is an unusual one. It offers three articles by the same two authors—Joel Vos and Biljana van Rijn—focusing on research they have done in transactional analysis.

In their Letter From the Coeditors, Bill Cornell, Helen Rowland, and Karen Minikin wrote:

Together, these articles seek to provide a comprehensive overview of research to date in transactional analysis. They include “The Transactional Analysis Review Survey: An Investigation Into Self-Reported Practices and Philosophies of Psychotherapists,” “A Systematic Review of Psychometric Transactional Analysis Instruments,” and “The Evidence-Based Conceptual Model of Transactional Analysis: A Focused Review of the Research Literature.”

The coeditors go on to describe the three articles:

Although further empirical validation is needed, the findings reported in “The Transactional Analysis Review Survey: An Investigation Into Self-Reported Practices and Philos-

ophies of Psychotherapists” seem to suggest that “TA offers a relatively coherent conceptual framework for psychotherapy. This framework may be used in the training of therapists and in the justification for national health services and insurance to fund TA psychotherapists.”

The second article, “A Systematic Review of Psychometric Transactional Analysis Instruments,” suggests that psychopathology and the severity of physical complaints are associated with strong Critical Parent, strong Adapted Child, weak Healthy Adult, negative coping styles, and negative positions toward self and others. These findings seem to empirically validate some of the key practices in TA psychotherapy.

The third article, “The Evidence-Based Conceptual Model of Transactional Analysis: A Focused Review of the Research Literature,” describes how “these effects are achieved by four evidence-based therapist competencies: creating a positive client-practitioner relationship, working with experiences in the present, etiological analysis (life scripts, injunctions, counterinjunctions), and therapeutic structure (treatment contracts, treatment stages, psychoeducation/didactics). Meta-analysis

of 75 studies shows that TA has moderate to large positive effects on psychopathology, self-efficacy, social functioning, and ego states. This conceptual model shows that TA can be considered a bona fide and evidence-based treatment for a wide range of clients.”

The coeditors conclude by saying that it is their hope that “by publishing these articles in a single issue of the *TAJ*, they will become a common reference point for future research in transactional analysis and for practicing clinicians who may draw on this body of research to assess and reflect on their operating assumptions.”

This issue of the *Journal* concludes with book reviews for the three inaugural volumes of the new *Innovations in Transactional Analysis* book series edited by Bill Cornell and published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis: Zefiro Mellacqua’s *Transactional Analysis of Schizophrenia: The Naked Self* is reviewed by Carole Shadbolt; N. Michel Landaiche’s *Groups in Transactional Analysis, Object Relations, and Family Systems: Studying Ourselves in Collective Life* is reviewed by Marco Mazzetti; and James M. Sedgwick’s *Contextual Transactional Analysis: The Inseparability of Self and World* is reviewed by Steff Oates. 

ITAA Social Engagement Committee Webinar

by Diane Salters

On 28 June 2021, 42 individuals from many parts of the world attended the latest SEC webinar to discuss the pandemic and its impact. Fewer people signed up this time, and I thought, “People are tired: tired of Covid, tired of Zoom, tired of the unending nature of all of this”—and so they are. There is a deep sense of exhaustion for many. But the people who attended were still fully committed to a dialogue on how the pandemic had affected them and their clients. There was also sober reflection on our relative privilege in being able to access health care and emotional support during this time when many others have not had those opportunities. The inequalities and injustices of our world have been highlighted by this pandemic, thereby raising our awareness of historical and current oppressions. At the same time, we acknowledged that it has stimulated change and led to new approaches to learning and conferencing such that our TA world will never be the same again. This is good news for those seeking easier and more affordable access to TA training and examination, among other things. There was, of course, also hope that we will soon be able to connect physically and give each other real hugs again!

Our timing was again difficult for members in the Americas, and this is something we need to look at in the future. However they, and any others who missed it, will be able



to view the recording of the plenary sessions [here](#).

There are some changes to the committee. Chitra Ravi is leaving to give herself fully in her demanding role as ITAA President. Wataru Suematsu is stepping down from the SEC because of work commitments but will remain in the nonviolence focus group. I will be stepping down as SEC chair, and Victoria Baskerville has, I am delighted to say, agreed to take on that role. Sashi Chandran, Salma Siddique, and Günther Mohr have agreed to carry on so there will be a high level of continuity. Elana Leigh will be welcomed as the ITAA

Board of Trustees representative on the committee and a valuable addition to the team.

As I leave this committee, I thank everyone who has served with me. I could not have hoped for a more interesting, committed, and reliable group of people. (Interestingly, I have only just now noticed the similarity of the words committed and committee!) I have enjoyed you all. I will continue to be involved in the TA and the environment focus group, so hopefully this is not a final good-bye.

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Reflections on the Past and Current Presidents’ Gathering

by Elana Leigh and Peter Rudolph



On Friday 4 June 2021, we convened a Zoom meeting with some of the past presidents of the ITAA and EATA to both honor history and to seek their thoughts and advice about the individual and collective identities of our associations as well as future visions for the TA world community.

It was moving and humbling to hear each past president talk about what their challenges and successes had been during their presiding years. This highlighted how we all stand on other leaders’ shoulders. We would

not be where we are today if it were not for the work and vision of those who came before us.

The specific question we posed to the past presidents was whether to include in the respective ITAA and EATA mission statements matters relating to global politics, social justice, and environmental issues. Although most of the past leaders felt it was important to be conscious and mindful of sociopolitical issues, they believed that we should not lose focus on our central tasks as professional associations. It was suggested that we continue to embrace the principles and philosophies of transactional analysis and our current mission statements and that we naturally could extend these to include broader world issues. They recommended that we develop ways to be more engaged in global sociopolitical issues without making that part of a mission statement.

TA Publications

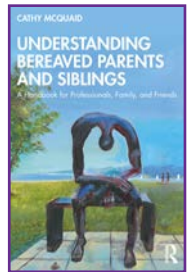
They hoped that we would find ways to speak to the question of how we as transactional analysts can contribute to important and relevant global sociopolitical issues. In addition, we need to continue considering what our values are, who we are, and what we want, questions that require ongoing reflection.

Another area that was of major concern among many of the past presidents was training and certification and, in particular, maintaining mutual recognition. This is considered to be a key achievement from the history of cooperation between ITAA and EATA. The past presidents strongly implored EATA and ITAA to stay collaboratively engaged, which we, Peter and Elana, assured them we are.

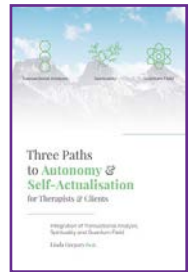
The gathering was rich and meaningful and we hope to plan further meetings in the future.

ITAA President Elana Leigh can be reached at elanaleigh23@gmail.com; EATA President Peter Rudolph can be reached at president@eatanews.org.

Cathy McQuaid has authored *Understanding Bereaved Parents and Siblings: A Handbook for Professionals, Family, and Friends*, which was published by Routledge this year. It is based on lived experiences and provides insight, ideas, and inspiration on how to support the bereaved, talk to them about their experience, and help people manage their shock and grief. The first part contains ten stories from parents and six from siblings, each discussing their relationship with someone who died, what led to the death, the impact of the death on the speaker, and what helped and what hindered the speaker in their grief. The second part is aimed at professionals and draws on various topics, such as grief and bereavement models, transgenerational loss, resilience, protection, and creative ways of working with grief. For more information and to order, click [here](#) (30% off e-books).



Linda Gregory has published a new book entitled *Three Paths to Autonomy and Self-Actualisation for Therapists and Clients: Integration of Transactional Analysis, Spirituality and Quantum Field*. It is a workbook for therapists and clients (and all others in the helping professions) to introduce them to issues related to spirituality, self-actualization, and transcendence. Linda describes how to work in/with the quantum field (QF) of all possibilities and provides meditations to foster experiencing QF, connecting deeply with all parts of the self, and learning to use the power of QF to manifest intentions. Meditations for redecisions, integrating parts of the self, healing, and connecting to



spirit are also included. The book is available as an e-book and soft cover from Amazon.com and also from www.drindagregory.com

Award Nominations Sought

Eric Berne Memorial Award

Deadline: 1 December 2021

Send EBMA nominations to committee chair Lis Heath at lis.heath@gmail.com

Hedges Capers Humanitarian Award

Muriel James Living Principles Award

ITAA Service Award

Goulding Social Justice Award

Deadline: 1 January 2022

Send nominations for the Capers, James, Goulding, and Service Awards to ITAA Secretary Rema K Giridhar at rema.k.giridhar@gmail.com

See the ITAA website at www.itaaworld.org/itaa-awards or contact the ITAA at info@itaaworld.org for details on making nominations for these awards.

TAJ Theme Issue

“Ecological Transactional Analysis”

Coeditors: Giles Barrow, Hayley Marshall, and Sylvie Monin
Deadline: 1 February 2022

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

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