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2023 ITAA Service Awards



Giles Barrow

Karen Pratt

We are pleased to announce that **Giles Barrow, TSTA (E), and Karen Pratt, TSTA (E), are being honored with this year's ITAA Service Awards.** Karen and Giles continue to serve the ITAA in their roles as cochairs of the Professional Standards Committee (PSC). Karen also took on the role of the ITAA Vice President of Professional Standards from January to July 2022 after it became vacant. Their significant contributions are highly appreciated by the ITAA.

Among their major contribution have been aligning training and certification processes with the new vision of the ITAA—that is, to be sustainable, environmentally friendly, and inclusive—and preparing our training and certification processes for the digital age.

Karen and Giles's work supports our climate change initiatives to minimize air travel, thus avoiding adding to the carbon footprint via emissions from aviation. They also considered the desire for inclusion, eco-sensitivity, and true international collaboration. At the onset of the pandemic, the entire TA world had to grapple with various challenges, including online TA training and online supervision. In the absence of conferences, exam sites, and travel options, various concerns about the feasibility of organizing IBOC exams were raised. There was an urgent need to support the TA community, to ensure continuity, and to meet the challenges and requirements of a growing list of pending exams.

The PSC develops policies, guidelines, and procedures for training and certification. Giles and Karen worked on those and developed standards for the digital age. They made it possible for training to be held online while upholding standards and principles for meeting and learning in the digital space. A prerequisite for this to occur was collaboration

with the International Board of Certification (IBOC). The PSC offers the framework in which the Board of Certification can operate and central services for the community and the membership.

Giles and Karen revised and updated the *Training and Certification Manual* in a clear and precise manner. The outcome of this work was based on the mutual effort of the IBOC (Sue Eusden and Jacqueline van Gent, cochairs) and PSC. Karen and Giles as the PSC cochairs held the frame and scope of the project. The TA world celebrated Sue and Jacqueline for their immense contributions by awarding them the ITAA Service Awards in July 2022. This year we celebrate Giles Barrow and Karen Pratt for their contributions with the 2023 ITAA Service Awards.

Congratulations to Giles (giles.barrow@gmail.com) and Karen (kpratt@mweb.co.za) and thank you both on behalf of the entire worldwide TA community! 📧

Message From the President

We have all been hearing news and seeing images over the past few weeks of the catastrophic earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria. Tens of thousands of people have lost their lives, their homes, their whole way of life. With the earthquake and many other recent disasters, my thoughts go to the many ways in which our Earth is being disrupted. I see this as an ongoing reminder to us about how we live in a world where disasters of many kinds have become events we hear of almost every day.



I am anguished and deeply saddened by the news of lives and homes lost in the devastating earthquake. My thoughts are with families there, including some of our members, and those who have lost loved ones. Although we all have so much happening in our respective lives, I hold those in Turkey and Syria especially in my prayers right now and urge our membership to do the same.

I have been moved in reading posts on social media platforms about how many of our members have responded and been supportive during this and other crises around the world. **We would appreciate it if you would write to us with your stories and letters about your experiences.**

ITAA President Chitra Ravi can be reached at chitra.seed@gmail.com. 📧

the SCRIPT

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2022 TAJ Bound Volume Is Available

The 2022 bound volume of the *Transactional Analysis Journal* was mailed in late December. Those members who are entitled to copies based on their membership category should receive them by 1 April 2023. If you have not yet received your 2022 bound volume by then, please check with Jenneva Guzman at info@itaaworld.org to make sure you were on the list to receive a copy. Please include your mailing address and phone number, and if you are due a copy, the office will request a replacement of the 2022 bound TAJ on your behalf.



The Launch of an Exciting New Joint Project Between ITAA, EATA, and “3 People in Your Head” Podcasts

by Steff Oates

We’re finally there! In July 2021, representatives from the International Transactional Analysis Association (ITAA) and the European Association for Transactional Analysis (EATA) were contacted by **John Fleming and Matt Taylor, who established the podcast “3 People in Your Head,” a social enterprise project designed**

“By 2021 the project was clearly successful, with over 1000 listeners and 20,000 downloads. Matt and John then wanted to expand the number and range of their podcasts.”

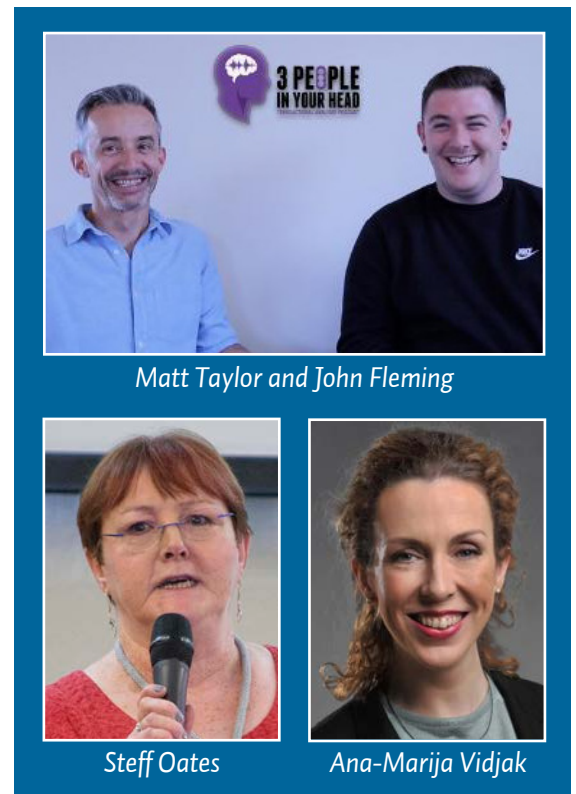
to promote and raise the profile of TA globally. Their aim was to help people gain a better understanding of their relationships with themselves and others, and their focus was on what TA practitioners have to say about personal development, mental health, education, communication, healthy relationships, organizational development, counseling, psychotherapy, and life in general.

The podcast was designed first and

foremost for the general public and anyone who is interested in psychology, communication, and development. Matt and John were clear from the beginning that their passion was to showcase TA in all applications: counseling, education, organizational consultancy, and psychotherapy.

By 2021 the project was clearly successful, with over 1000 listeners and 20,000 downloads. Matt and John then wanted to expand the number and range of their podcasts. To do that, they need funding in order to employ people to assist with editing and to register “3 People in Your Head” as a not-for-profit organization. They wanted “3 People in Your Head” to gain recognition as the official TA podcast and to carry the endorsement of ITAA and EATA.

Members of the ITAA Board of Trustees and the EATA Executive



Matt Taylor and John Fleming

Steff Oates

Ana-Marija Vidjak

Committee were interested in whether this could be a three-way project between ITAA, EATA, and “3 People in Your Head,” so we established a working group. Everyone was impressed by what “3 People in Your Head” had already achieved and the clear values and standards

“The podcast was designed first and foremost for the general public and anyone who is interested in psychology, communication, and development. Matt and John were clear from the beginning that their passion was to showcase TA in all applications: counseling, education, organizational consultancy, and psychotherapy.”

they had upheld. We, the working group members, particularly appreciated the way Matt and John had committed to making sure that the podcasts were evenly distributed between all four fields of application. We also needed to check that endorsing this project and offering funds did not contravene any of our bylaws, so we sought help from the ITAA lawyer. She drafted a comprehensive, legally binding contract to which EATA agreed.

Alongside considering legalities, the ITAA/EATA group met with Matt to iron out just what would be possible from the ambitious proposal that “3 People in Your Head” had originally proposed and decided that a trimmed-down version (in terms of the number of podcasts) could work to everyone’s benefit. In the legal agreement that was established, a clear contract emerged such that “3 People in Your Head” will manage the operational aspects of producing the podcasts while EATA and ITAA provide funding and teams to ensure the quality of the podcasts.

The current plan is that “3 People in Your Head” will produce 18 podcasts a year in which Matt and some cohosts will interview known personalities in TA covering all four fields

Steff Oates can be reached at lcfan@me.com.

of application, and there will also be some conference podcasts. At a later stage, more *Transactional Analysis Journal (TAJ)* articles will be produced as audio files and published under the umbrella of “3 People in Your Head.” Details of this will be worked out with the TAJ coeditors.

The quality assurance aspect of the project is currently being worked out by a small committee comprising Steff Oates, ITAA Vice President Research and Innovation, and Ana-Marija Vidjak of EATA’s Communication Committee. The checklist we will offer to our quality assurance reviewers is based on the ITAA/EATA ethical guidelines. We will ask reviewers to make sure that the podcasts abide by the values of respect, empowerment, protection, responsibility, and commitment in relationship. All parties are keen that the podcasts do not become a purely promotional exercise for interviewees and wish to honor those who share their experience and knowledge with a generous spirit.

People who are interested in being interviewed may contact Matt Taylor at 3peopleinyourhead@gmail.com, keeping in mind that the focus is on publishing an equal number of podcasts for each field of application and so there may be a considerable lead-in time.

As well as providing the public with valuable information about TA, **the podcasts will offer a mention of the sponsoring organizations, and links on the podcast website will direct listeners new to TA to 101 information on YouTube.** That way, we can hopefully keep the loyal group of followers of the podcasts (most of whom are already involved with TA) and encourage new listeners who may not have any prior knowledge of TA.

When podcasts are produced, the social media teams of ITAA and EATA will work on publicizing them.

We look forward to the first podcast coming out soon and hope you enjoy listening to them. 🎧

TAJ Theme Issues

“Leadership”

Coeditors: Sue Eusden and Giles Barrow | Deadline: 1 August 2023

“Intimacy and Creativity Within the Real Self: Revisiting Berne’s Secret Garden”

Coeditors: Edward T. Novak and Karen Minikin | Deadline: 1 February 2024

“Relationships in Love, Play, and Work”

Coeditors: Brad McLean and Helen Rowland | Deadline: 1 August 2024

Please follow the submission requirements posted [here](#). Email manuscripts to TAJ Managing Editor Robin Fryer, MSW, at robinfryer@aol.com.

Remembering Chuck Holland

Chuck Holland, our loving and creative friend and TA activist from Fort Worth, Texas, passed away of heart complications on 12 December 2022 at the age of 80. Air Force Colonel, Eagle Scout, and Master Mason, he was a life-long advocate for friends and family members and a loving caregiver, family and marriage counselor, and therapist to thousands. As South-west Regional Representative and then Program Coordinator for the USA TA Association (USATAA) from 2007 to 2014, Chuck organized a regional Gathering and contributed to conferences. He was on the program committee for the 2007 ITAA-EATA World Conference in San Francisco and was well known for conducting the classic psychodrama exercise “The Magic Shop.” With the support of the ITAA and the sponsorship of USATAA, Chuck organized TA Practitioner (TAP) courses in Fort Worth, where he brought in trainers from around the country. He also anchored many morning men’s circles at conferences.

Val Chang: I met my dear friend Chuck at a TA conference in a USATAA meeting. He was a warm, caring, upbeat, positive person who was great to be around. Years ago, Chuck asked me to come to Fort Worth and teach a section of a TAP course. Chuck was a wonderful host and gracious person who invited



folks to feel comfortable. He talked about and strove for “I’m OK, You’re OK” relationships. Toward the end of 2020, Chuck began a project he called TA Stories, which involved videos of some of the original TA leaders, especially those trained by Eric Berne. He spent hours figuring out details, meeting with the committee, doing a practice video, and contacting participants. I bet a lot of folks said yes to participating, including me, because it was Chuck who asked them. Chuck’s goals in doing these videos were to stroke the accomplishments of the participants, model TA OK-OK relationships, document how each participant had discovered TA, and develop and deepen interest in TA. Chuck

moderated five of the six videos, and I moderated the sixth one.

Lucy Freedman: Chuck was a model of being heart-centered. When he brought in TA trainers from around the US to Texas, I was fortunate to colead a weekend with Lucie King. He brought in many community members for the training, including therapists and people from all walks of life. I have a special memory of being with Chuck at our Jamaica Gathering when we went to a nearby beach with several Jamaican families. We brought art supplies for us and the kids. Chuck made true Child-to-Child connections. From that time onward, he would doodle during council meetings and make

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IBOC News

Exams: Currently we are building toward the CTA and TSTA exams in March. There will also be a TEW in March. The July Suffolk exam site in the UK has attracted more candidates, so we are pleased to have been able to expand the number of CTA places from 6 to 8.

IBOC Administration: We say **good-bye and thank you to Niva Manivannan**, who had been helping us since September 2022. The contact email address remains the same: iboc@itaaworld.org

Written exam marking: The IBOC is planning to deliver **free, online workshops this year to enhance the marking of the written exam**. Our first action will be to send out a brief questionnaire (through a Google form) to all P/TSTAs asking about their experiences and learning needs. The IBOC is also looking to broaden our pool of TSTA/PTSTAs who would be willing to mark written exams in Spanish and other languages. This question will be included in the Goo-

gle form. From this feedback we will set up a pilot workshop and develop from there. Regional Exam Coordinators (REC) Haseena Abdulla and Karen Lam will be involved in this development, making strong links with the whole REC team. Please watch for the email from us in March.

Jacqueline van Gent (jacqueline@itaaworld.org) and Sue Eusden (sue@itaaworld.org), IBOC Cochairs 

New Contact Information for the ITAA

Now that Huntington Association Management is working with us to manage most aspects of our staffing needs, we will be using their postal address and phone as follows:

ITAA
2700 E. Foothill Blvd.
Suite 209
Pasadena, California 91107,
USA
phone: 626-689-4810.
The email will remain the same: info@itaaworld.org.

Chuck Holland

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gifts of personalized watercolors with TA themes. Chuck had the idea of making video interviews with people who had contributed to TA over the years. With encouragement from USATAA and assistance from Vann Joines, Val Chang, Kim McClelland, and others, Chuck set up recording sessions to capture people first-hand. His relaxed, down-home style brought out sharings from people with whom he had worked inside prisons, in TA training programs, in men's groups at conferences, and with people who integrate TA into their other healing practices. Because of health challenges, Chuck was not able to complete the TA Stories videos, but USATAA has them and hopes to edit them for future viewing.

Vann Joines: I first got to know Chuck in the men's groups he organized at TA conferences. Later he recommended me for a USATAA award and presented it to me at

a conference. Chuck was also one of the people who originated the TAP certification program. When he undertook the video project to record many of the long-time members, he asked me to run the Zoom sessions, which I did. Chuck was a unique individual and a good friend. I will greatly miss him.

Felipe Garcia: Chuck will be missed in the TA community, where he was active for many years. I was especially close to Chuck because he was in my region of the US (Texas), and we were both in training with John Gladfelter. Chuck was very supportive and involved with the USATAA from the beginning. We worked on regional conferences in San Antonio, Dallas, and Corpus Christi. I send my condolences to his friends and family.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Judy, and sons Carter and Weston. A celebration of his life was held on Chuck's 81st birthday in early January.

(Thanks to Ravi Sethi for the photo.) 

New and Continuing Board of Trustees Members

Following the close of nominations on 29 January for open seats on the ITAA Board of Trustees, we are happy to announce the following individuals will join or remain on the board. Since no more than one person was nominated for each position, there is no need for an election. These individuals will begin their terms following the 2023 AGM in July.

Keiko Hoshino, Regional Representative Asia-Pacific: I take joy in connecting with the world through the TA framework and TA terms. I hope to share that joy more with people in my region. I connected with TA 30 years ago in Japan and with the ITAA 12 years ago. I became a CTA in 2019 and a PTSTA in 2021. I work in the educational field, including TA training. For people from areas where English is not the primary language, it is challenging to obtain information about international TA, even for me. That is why I thought that I, as a member with English-language challenges, could make a contribution. For example, in exams, not only the examiners but also the candidates need to take more account of language and cultural differences. Focusing on what is created between people and connecting them is a great learning and joy. I will be happy to work as a bridge so that people in my region can interact with TA people around the world to learn more about each other.



Michelle Thomé, Vice President

Development: This will be my second term in this position. This past year, I have focused on communication, branding, and marketing. We launched the new logo, increased ITAA's participation in social media—Instagram (@itaa_world), Twitter (@itaaworld), Facebook ([facebook.com/ITAAworld](https://www.facebook.com/ITAAworld))—and have been working to build our new website, all with the objective of improving communication with our members. More recently, the membership committee has been reinstated with Secretary Rema Giridhar as the chair.



Rema Giridhar, Secretary: This will be my second term as secretary. In my first term, I worked with the conference, procedures manual, and bylaws teams; chaired the nominations and awards committees; and worked with the executive committee and BOT. I organized BOT meetings and EC meetings, maintained minutes, organized AGMs, and conducted award ceremonies. I cochaired the organizing committee for the 2022 online conference, worked extensively with various departments, and played a vital role in the technical aspects of hosting the conference.



Anne Tucker, Regional Representative Australia/New Zealand:

This will be my second term in this position. During my first term, I redeveloped the procedures manual; worked on the original task team to look at the development of ITAA into a professional organization; was a member of the task team to give thought to a policy on how to address issues that arise from natural disasters and/or political implications and also a task team to find an appropriately flexible, sustainable communication system; and chaired the bylaws committee and various task teams that developed as needs arose. With the potential redevelopment of the organization going forward, I am happy to contribute and use my skills to enable the ongoing success of the organization so it is fit for purpose and is sustainable for the future. 



Conference Calendar

21–23 April 2023

UKATA National Conference
www.uka4ta.co.uk/event-details/ukata-national-conference-2023-1

19–21 April 2024

UKATA National Conference

ITAA Restructure Ballot Deadline Is 15 March 2023: We Want to Hear From You!

The Board of Trustees (BOT) proposed a structural change to the ITAA at the July 2022 Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting. The ITAA as it is now is committed to the effectiveness of TA as a theory for everyday professional life. In addition to this, a proposed professional association can also promote the business interests of its members, for example, by publicizing the affiliation, providing a coherent system of certification, and ongoing promotion.

The BOT has emailed the membership with a ballot so that you can vote on the proposal to form a professional association. If this proposal is approved and a professional association is established, the ITAA as we know it now will then become a foundation that holds the archives, the funds, *The Script*, and the TAJ.

We held two online Zoom meetings, on 16 February and on 28 February, so that members could let us know their thoughts and questions about the proposed restructure. If you were unable to participate and still have questions, please contact us at restructure-ita@use.startmail.com.

Chitra Ravi, Elana Leigh, and Thorsten Geck ☺

Let Us Know If You Need Help or Can Offer It: Seeking People to Participate in ITAA's Support Platform

The ITAA is still looking for people within our community who are willing to offer therapy (trainees, psychotherapists) or supervision/training (PTSTAs, TSTAs) in the form of group or individual supervision and seminars and/or workshops, especially on the themes of managing post-traumatic stress responses and stress reduction strategies. If you are willing to help, please contact Cristina Caizzi (cristinacaizzi@gmail.com), the Regional Representative for Europe, who is in charge of coordinating these activities. When responding, please include a brief outline of what you would like to offer as well as a brief bio. The same email address can be used by people who want to receive help. Please write what kind of help you want/need so that Cristina can match requests with whomever is available. ☺

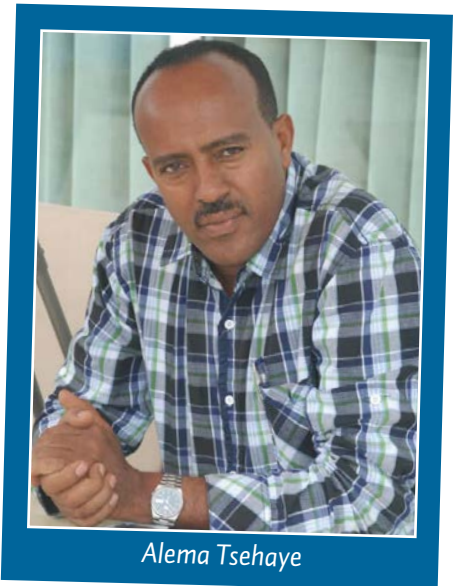
Jean Illsley Clarke Education Grant 2023

We are delighted to announce the recipient of the one-time education grant set up in honor of Jean Illsley Clarke, who died in June 2021. Our thanks to Karen Pratt for the following about Alema.

Alema Tsehaye first reached out to the South African Transactional Analysis Association (SATAA) in mid 2022 to see what support he could get for his desire to spread TA in Ethiopia. He had met TA many years ago, had found it useful, and has been using it in his country. I offered him an affordable place in a TA 101 a few months ago, and he is excited to join my Foundation Group in 2023. I will happily cover the subsidized fees. I can see how access to current TA books will be of huge benefit to Alema and the people with whom he works.

Alema writes, "I have a degree in philosophy and theology, a master's specializing in pedagogy and social communication (where I first learned about TA), a master's in global studies and international relations, and am certified in value-based leadership and trauma healing. When I first learned TA, I found it an important tool for filling the gap in my culture whereby Parent and Adult ego states are ignored up until about 12 years old, and Child feelings are not recognized after 12 years. I felt the pain of those feelings and have noticed that this results in a lack of self-confidence.

My second reason for wanting to deepen my study of TA is that it will be an important tool in helping to realize a culture of peace and tolerance in my



Alema Tsehaye

conflict-prone nation (Ethiopia), where conflict affects hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. I made a conceptual translation of the TA IO1 into my local language. According to reader feedback, they are happy about it. I have had some good occasions to broadcast TA on media platforms and have given training on it in schools both for parents and children as well as in social circles. Participants' feedback is very positive because it helped them to change their way of behaving. But I feel this is not enough, and it is my dream to create a TA circle and let people make use of it more and more." 

New Members

JANUARY 2023

Suhail Ahmad, United Kingdom
 Anja Beko, United States
 Mary Dees, United Kingdom
 Nims Dhawan, United Kingdom
 Susan Dsouza, India
 Didde Gaardsted, United Kingdom
 Marinus Gardenier, Netherlands
 Nita George, India
 Peter Golder, United Kingdom
 Chantal Guellec, France
 Johan Klein Wolterink, Netherlands
 Julietta Kornysheva, Estonia
 Jennifer Laine, France
 Sarah Major, United Kingdom
 Yves Meert, Belgium
 Ursula Obreza, Slovenia
 Natalia Pozo Recio, United Kingdom
 Karen Sedgwick, United Kingdom
 Annet Shaju, India
 Divya Sharma, United Kingdom
 Holly Smith, United Kingdom
 Junko Urabe, Japan
 Aljosja van der Baan, Netherlands
 Angie Walker Smyth,
 United Kingdom
 Claire Wright, United Kingdom

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MARCH 2023

THE SCRIPT

Webinar on Hope & Despair

As TA practitioners in all fields, contexts, and interests, we share the burden of many global problems that directly and indirectly impact our work with clients and client systems. Climate change, inequality, the recent war in Ukraine/Russia, and systemic racism are some of the major themes that set the current tone in the

international arena. These world events call for our empathy, courage, and resilience, which is not always an easy path to navigate. How in these times can we straddle the tension between hope and despair while staying realistic, connected, and inclusive?

This webinar organized by the ITAA Social Engagement Committee **is an invitation to cocreate a space in which we can explore our individual, cultural, and group experiences in relation to hope and despair.** As a global community of transactional analysts, we acknowledge that resilience arises more easily in groups that think and feel together and that new possibilities can emerge by connecting experiences and staying long enough without knowing. Are you willing to join us on 4 April in creating this time and space to think, feel, and be together?

We look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible to share about and discuss this deeply important topic. **Once you have registered, we will send an email a few days before the event with the Zoom link, so be sure to add info@itaaworld.org to your contacts list.** Please note that if you cannot make the event, **we will be posting a recording** of the webinar on the ITAA YouTube channel several days afterward. You do not need to register on Eventbrite for the recording. We will send an email when it's ready.



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE WEBINAR

Hope & Despair

How do we conceptualise and experience them as transactional analysts

 4 April 2023
 12pm - 13:30 UTC

[Register Now](#)



China TA Association 10th Anniversary Conference

by Chen Lei and Xu Lili

Ten years ago, Ms. Chen Lei from China and Mr. Thomas Ohlsson from Sweden met in the Old Summer Palace Ruins Park in Beijing. Their communication was the beginning of TA's journey on the China mainland. During the past decade, members of the Chinese TA community have helped each other and witnessed at the same time the development of TA in China and each other's growth.

On 2–4 December 2022, the China TA Association (CTAA) held an online conference to commemorate our 10th anniversary. Presiding at the opening ceremony was Vice President Xu Lili, and President Chen Lei reviewed the extraordinary decade of challenges that CTAA has gone through, which has included three stages: (1) setting sail and exploration (2012-2014), (2) deep cultivation and development (2015-2019), and (3) adjustment and win-win (2020-2022).

CTAA President Chen Lei can be reached at amy@chinata.org.



CTAA conference team

From only 4 professional training sessions in 2012 to 19 training sessions in 2022, CTAA has so far organized 107 training sessions with 2800 participants. Thousands of people have also participated in online and offline reading groups, TA salons, mental health lectures, workshops, and other activities organized by the association, as well

as the writing, translation, and publication of dozens of TA books.

At the December meeting, **Thomas Ohlsson gave a keynote speech titled “A TA Pioneer Dug Deep to Promote Win-win Transactions.”** He talked about his beginnings with TA, the current world situation (e.g., the pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine



Thomas Ohlsson giving his keynote

war, etc.), and how TA can help us realize that the growing awareness of psychology is a key factor in stopping humankind's ultimate conflict resolution method, that is, fighting and killing each other. For the first time in human evolution, psychol-

“Thousands of people have also participated in online and offline reading groups, TA salons, mental health lectures, workshops, and other activities organized by the association, as well as the writing, translation, and publication of dozens of TA books.”

ogy, including TA, offers an opening to other ways for settling our conflicts. Knowing that all of us have the same feelings and basic needs, men and women alike, we can negotiate on the basis of real survival interests: What do you need to live? What do I need to live? How can we decide to live together so both you and I, and all the people we are allowed to represent, can live well together? Or, in TA terms: How can we solve our conflict and let live from an “I’m OK, You’re OK” perspective?

ITAA President-Elect Thorsten Geck also gave a keynote speech: “Building Bridges Instead of Digging Trenches.” He emphasized that 15-20 years after the advance of global integration, countries are increasingly isolated under the shadows of the pandemic and war, and people increasingly need to build bridges of

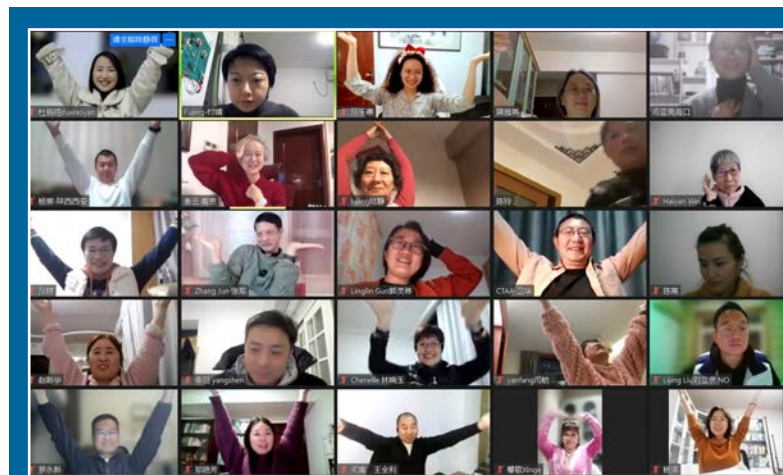
communication and win-win strategies rather than continue to dig trenches to deepen the gaps. We need to be more open, to be real and vulnerable, to seek mutual support and connection, and TA is a tool to achieve those goals. Through contact with community culture, we increasingly realize that the autonomy and identity of individual thinking is particularly important. To do justice to cultural diversity, the concept of TA needs to be reloaded with “meaning” about how it can better promote communication and connection between different countries, races, and cultures.

At the opening ceremony, CTAA presented awards to outstanding students and teachers who had made great contributions to promoting TA in China

and also gave a ring engraved with “I’m OK, You’re OK” to all conference participants. After the opening ceremony, there were 13 online workshops and forums organized by CTAA. According to feedback from those who attended, it was a real feast for the mind. Sitting at home, participants could enjoy the wonderful sharing of world-class transactional analysts and local TA teachers. We hope that the future annual meeting will continue in such a way that more teachers can participate in the workshops to share the practical application of TA with more TA community partners and to spread TA to more people!

From 2020 to 2022, under the pressure of COVID-19, CTAA unswervingly persisted. At the beginning of the pandemic, when in-person courses and activities could not be carried out, we quickly adjusted and started online courses. In these 3 years, CTAA has not only not shrunk but has developed and expanded. This year’s online annual meeting and conference was attended by 172 people, double the number from previous years.

Another breakthrough in 2022 was that in June, the CTAA organized many students to attend ITAA’s first



CTAA conference workshop on TA and the Body



CTAA conference closing ceremony

online conference and cooperated with the ITAA to provide simultaneous interpretation for Chinese students. This was very well received and a big step forward. The annual meeting in December was CTAA's fourth and also the first online,

Xu Lili, Director of TA Psychotherapy Center Wang Weihua, and Director of Operations Wang Lu. But the CTAA is huge because we have the great support of ITAA, teachers from all over the world, and students

which allowed more students who could not come to in-person conferences to attend, including some from Japan, Canada, and Greece.

The CTAA team is small, with only four full-time staff members, including President Chen Lei, Vice President

from different cities in China. We come from different cultures, classes, walks of life, and genders, but we transcend these differences. As Thorsten and Thomas mentioned in their keynote speeches, we build bridges of communication through TA to achieve connection and intimacy.

Finally, we pay tribute to the teachers who have supported and helped the development of TA in China:

Thomas Ohlsson from Sweden, who brought TA to China and continued to teach here for 17 years; Thorsten Geck from Germany; Julie Hay from the United Kingdom; Gloria Noriega Gayol from Mexico; and Linda Gregory from Australia. We also thank the ITAA for its continuous support and look forward to another brilliant decade for CTAA! 🌱

Reflecting on the CTAA Conference

by Thorsten Geck

I was happy and honored to be invited as a keynote speaker for the 10th Anniversary CTAA Conference and saw it as an opportunity to convey greetings from the ITAA in my capacity as president-elect.

My translation program gave the theme as “Ploughing, Pioneering (but also sowing), and Communicating.” I was intrigued and stimulated. What else was it that Amy and her team had done in ten years: Prepare the ground for transactional analysis in China—and this through communication?

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An important role was played (and still is) by Thomas Ohlsson from Sweden, who has been doing TA training and offering groups in China for many years. In his keynote he spoke touchingly about the importance of feelings in human encounters and how, despite war and threats, people (e.g., in Ukraine) want to take part in workshops and to learn. As the months passed, the idea in the theme changed for me. News from the world—about COVID-19, the war in Ukraine (and fighting elsewhere), the increasing isolation that can be observed everywhere after more than 20 years of advancing globalization—made me think about another aspect of culture besides ploughing and pre-

paring the ground: building bridges. Berne used technical culture to describe the tools and processes of production. (You can read his humorous and illuminating explanations in *The Structure and Dynamics of Organizations and Groups*.) “Building Bridges Instead of Digging Trenches” became the theme for my address. Bridges connect (of



Thorsten Geck giving his keynote



The OK ring given to conference participants

course). But how do we stay open and show our vulnerability instead of entrenching ourselves in trenches and seeking a (deceptive) protection? I found many references in TA to this dynamic. Bridges cross chasms and open paths to unknown new terrain. In fact, I am, strangely enough, grateful to the pandemic for opening up the possibility for us to meet each other online and stay connected. Virtual encounters are a way to cross borders when other options fail.

Bridges are under tension, which is a technical process that allows them to function. And who has not experienced the tension of whether an (electronic) connection (bridge) can be established, and once it is, whether it continues to work? From a theoretical point of view, it always means a constructive tension for me, for example, how thinking in TA has long been based on individual autonomy. Increasingly we are understanding, including through encounters with community cultures, that it is important to think not only about autonomy but also homonomy. Individual-centered thinking needs to be thought of differently. TA concepts need to be reloaded with meaning in order to do justice to the diversity of cultures. This is how TA can really become a theory for everyone. For example,

what does “open communication” mean in a frame of reference where essential aspects are communicated indirectly and “between the lines”?

A last point I touched on in my speech is that bridges make spectacular views possible if one decides to walk on them. Indeed, the view has been great when I look at what the CTAA has achieved over 10 years: A diverse training program for interested participants from numerous professional groups, including therapists, counselors, leaders, and human resource managers.

Following my speech, a video and slide show showed reading groups and peer supervision groups in several Chinese cities and workshops with Chinese transactional analysts and non-Chinese guests. The enthusiasm for learning was evident. Then workshops were offered showing the diversity of topics and the relationship between a cultural frame of reference and TA concepts. Among them were these (which I have roughly translated):

“Life Script Meets Genealogical Chart”; “TA—Learn TA Together Before Marriage by De-Cluttering”; “Helping TA Work With Energy”; “TA Work With the Body”; “TA in the Organizational Field: The Impact of the System on the Individual”; “PAC, Stroke, and Improvization Through the Lens of Tai Chi”; “A Window on the World”; “Attachment, Scripting, and Intimacy Psychotherapy Workshop”; “Do Men and Women Have the Same Emotions? An Exploration of Chapter 9 of Take It Slow: Angry Men and Women, Drug Addicts and Pleasure Seekers”; “TA Therapy and the Soul Circuit: Modern vs. Ancient Approaches to Psychological Healing”; and “A Talk on the Application of Personality Adaptation Theory in Education.”

I want to express my admiration to Chen Lei and her team for their commitment, willingness, and ability to build bridges! The ITAA wishes the CTAA continued growth, prosperity, success, and the enthusiasm of its members for the next 10 years! 🌟

Events and Reminders Calendar

- 6 July 2023** International Trainers’ Meeting, Dublin, Ireland
- 7-8 July 2023** Annual In-Person ITAA Board of Trustees Meeting
- 29 July 2023** ITAA Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting (online)
- 1 August 2023** Deadline TAJ theme issue on “Leadership”
- 1 February 2024** Deadline TAJ theme issue on “Intimacy and Creativity: Revisiting Berne’s Secret Garden”
- 1 August 2024** Deadline TAJ theme issue on “Relationships in Love, Play, and Work”

For more details about these and other events, visit the ITAA website at www.itaaworld.org.