It Isn’t Going Away and We Can’t Go Back

On Living During the Uncertainty of a Hinge Time in History, a Way to Make Sense of It, and How to Respond to It

By Jean Illsley Clarke

In contemplating about the changing times in which we live, a distressed neighbor said, “I want my state back.” Actually, she is not going to get her state back, or her country, or her world, because, as the song says, “The times they are a changing.” Transactional analysis is part of this vast change. We can’t not.

At the April Institute of Transactional Analysis (ITA) conference in Keele, United Kingdom, I listened to people talk about the need to look deeply at a Western-based theory as it is adapted (changed) to function in other cultures. I watched people, recognizing old structures that are no longer working, struggling to reshape or replace them. More changes, I sensed the discomfort and the excitement as people pushed to find new ways to make things work.

When faced with the confusion and discomfort of change, I need a model, a map, a way to understand and stand think about what is changing before I can feel comfortable with choosing my part of the action.

The map that is helpful to me comes from Breakpoint and Beyond: Mastering the Future—Today by George Land and Beth Jarman (1992). This exciting book, written by management consultants for leaders and managers, proposes and diagrams a three-part cycle of change in the growth of a company. I have created a slightly different diagram to help me use their insights to look at my personal and our institutional situation.

Historically, the hinge times in history have involved dramatic changes in thinking. Consider the complex changes in understanding that accompanied the moves from the hunter-gatherer mind to the agricultural pattern, then the profound thinking change required to move into the industrial age.

Land and Jarman (1992) call the edges of the shifts from one age to another “breakpoints.” It is not a one-day move but a gradual shift from the stability of our last age into the uncertain adjustment period before we pass the second breakpoint into the certainty and stability of accommodation to the technological age. We have passed the breakpoint into the technological age, but we are not yet there. “Today’s change is not just: more rapid, more complex, more turbulent, more unpredictable. Today’s change is unlike any encountered before” (p. 4). Land and Jarman call this uncertain period “chaos.”

Chaos is hard to live with, so how do people cope? Some pull inward and try to shut it out as much as they can, to keep their lives “normal.” Some are fearful and try to banish the uncertainty by attempting to pull themselves and others back into the ways that worked in the past age. Some, accepting that what they invent may not work in the future, go about imagining new causal maps and creating new models that may work.

By Laurie Hawkes

First an apology for my title: I couldn’t resist the reference to Jacques Breil. Of course TA, born in the United States, today lives in many countries.

For some reason not clear to me, transactional analysis seems more alive in France at this point that ever before. Not that our community is without problems, but despite the difficult current situation (economically), many people are interested in training, publishers are interested in transactional analysis books, and clients are interested in TA therapy.

A Little History

Transactional analysis started in France with an American woman, Lynn Lindström, who started a TA group in 1974 in Paris. The following summer she brought together a group of French people (about a dozen) to attend the first transactional analysis conference in Europe (Villars 1975), which was organized by Mary Goulding. That year saw the creation of the European TA Association (EATA) and the Institut Français d’Analyse Transactionnelle (IFAT).

TA Publications in French

In 1977, Raymond Hostie, in Belgium, created Actualités en Analyse Transactionnelle, which was modeled after the Transactional Analysis Journal. A substantial number of the articles in this French-language journal are translations of TAJ articles; others are translated from Italian, Spanish, or German; and a number are original articles written in French by French, Belgian, or Swiss authors. The editorial committee meets four times a year to discuss which articles to include and to plan themes for future issues. Every other year, subscribers elect one among the “first generation” of transactional analysts in Belgium and France.

The TA group in Paris created a French TA group in 1974 in Paris. The following summer they brought together a group of French people (about a dozen) to attend the first transactional analysis conference in Europe (Villars 1975), which was organized by Mary Goulding. That year saw the creation of the European TA Association (EATA) and the Institut Français d’Analyse Transactionnelle (IFAT).

Successful examinees (CTA and TSTA) from various European countries right after the Paris exams in November 2009. Standing in the back are also the two exam organizers: Anne Noe (fourth from left, brunette) and Elyane Alleysson, who also runs the Editions d’Analyse Transactionnelle (fifth from left, blonde).
To Belong or Not To Belong?

By Rosemary Napper

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

That is the question. And it is responded to by ITAA members when it comes time to pay their annual dues. How many membership organizations do you belong to? What keeps you paying your dues? How active are you and why?

I understand that Carlo Mosso suggested that to feel a sense of belonging is the most powerful motivator for human beings. I find Berne’s (1963) thinking about membership valuable too. His categories illuminate layers of psychological meaning embedded in belonging as a member. Which of the following were involved in you becoming an ITAA member and which remain relevant for you today?

Birth: I know of at least one person who is an ITAA member because of a parent’s role in TA!

Conscription: In my country, until the 1990s, many TA trained teachers trained that they should belong to the ITAA.

Electoral: Past presidents are lifetime members of the ITAA.

Achievement: Some people belong to get an award or take a TA examination and get/maintain a “licence” (although it is possible to do this without joining the ITAA).

What keeps you belonging? What response do you want from your organization? What do you know about the reasoning of those who do not belong?

1. International Community. Personal values, often shaped by living through World War II and/or the Cold War, have created a passionate attitude for the notion of an international community. However, younger people seem to expect this in these days of no-cost Internet and do not have a sense of the value of being a member in order to express concern about international harmony. It is noticeable that the ITAA membership is largely over 30 years of age. The opportunity for an international conference seems to consolidate this longing for connectedness across the planet, and news of TA going on in the world (e.g., TA News and conferences) serve to support this sense of a global community. Both members and non-members seem proud that their psychology of choice has this global feature.

2. Transactional Analysis Journal. Many talk of the TAJ with pleasure, and some say that this is the only reason they belong to the ITAA. A few express concern that it is not sufficiently recognized academically because it is not referenced in academic journals nor is it research based, and some find the serious writing style inaccessible. Some working toward TA exams find it invaluable for referencing and have realized that it is both possible and easier to access by purchasing the TAJ disk (although this does not give them access to the most recent TAJs) or to take out a subscription. Those who do not speak English express irritation that English is the only language used in ITAA publications and on the Web site.

3. Attachment to the Ancestors of TA. Some members describe this as romantic, others as nostalgic, all speak with warmth and respect. Many members of 30 years or more clearly have their own identity interwoven with the TAJ. However, for many recent members, and those who do not belong, this sense of connection to the history and heritage of transactional analysis is often absent or shrugged off. When I ask about their trainers, and who trained their trainers, it is apparent that there are several generations from being trained by Berne. Our ancestry is not alive in their hearts and minds, and their TA training may focus primarily on more recent writers and speakers.

Other reasons individuals are no longer members include severe illness, retirement, or death; in addition, there are a handful of individuals who have resigned angrily. Overall, as I write this (6 May), about 200 individuals have informally responded about belonging and are thus helping the board consider how to best shape the future in order to provide the three core services outlined above and, at the same time, attract both new and young people interested in transactional analysis.

So, to belong or not to belong is a question people ask themselves, and most make a considered choice. If you are reading this, then you are likely to be a fully paid-up member—or know someone who is. What keeps you belonging? What response do you want from your organization? What do you know about the reasoning of those who do not belong? Let us know your real reason by emailing. The psychological level of the contract between you and this organization is likely to contain the most potent aspects and can help the ITAA become an organization providing real service.

REFERENCES


Errata

In the March 2010 Script we published an article by Thomas Ohlsson entitled “Living the Life of TA!” along with a photo of a poster in Chinese calligraphy that said “You are OK, I am also OK.” Unfortunately, in the production process the photo of the poster was flipped, meaning that the Chinese characters were backward. Our sincerest apology to Thomas and those of our readers who read Chinese. We republish the poster here as it should be shown.

THE SCRIPT

May/June 2010 • 2

by Rosemary Napper
A definitive reference work of transactional analysis, pulling together old and new theory in a comprehensive and easy-to-use format. With an introduction by Trudi Newton, Chair of Training & Certification Council, this is an exciting and functional resource, designed for any person interested in TA: professional, amateur, serious researcher, or dilettante.

Clarke’s Dictionary of Transactional Analysis: A compendium of definitions, diagrams, awards, organizations, and biographies.

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To purchase: Call 1-651-227-8776 (USA) or email: susanclarke@comcast.net

Visa and MasterCard accepted
Being released for sale June 2010
News from Latin America

by Erich Kosloski

The history of transactional analysis in Latin America is still to be told. There seem to be no books to tell us how it all started, yet as I gathered information here and there, many tales emerged about the active people involved in teaching and practicing TA in the region. Even if the lack of official information leaves the curious reader with little to go on, I find it rather romantic and fun to hear many different stories—not all necessarily true or official, but all closely related to the values, feelings, beliefs, and thoughts of our own Latin identity. There are currently two main transactional analysis organizations in Latin America. One is the Latino-Americanos de Análisis Transaccional (ALAT), the Latin American TA association. ALAT is one of the cosponsoring organizations that hosted the international TA conference in Lima, Peru, in 2009. Most of its members are Spanish speaking. The other organization is Unión Nacional dos Analistas Transacionais Brasil (UNAT BRASIL), the National Transactional Analysis Union-Brazil. Most of its members are Brazilians and speak Portuguese.

These two organizations reveal that language is an important aspect of any group because it sets boundaries and helps build identity. There is one Portuguese-speaking country in Latin America (Brazil), and more than a dozen Spanish-speaking countries, including some that are bilingual (French, Dutch, and English). In that sense, language could be an important reason for two transactional analysis organizations. Historical background also plays an important role because Brazil was colonized by the Portuguese, while most other Latin American countries were colonized by the Spanish.

ITAA members have started the process of forming a TA community in the Latin America region. I recently found out that former ITAA president Bill Holloway has been in Brazil for the last couple of decades. He played an important role in the ITAA because he began the Teaching and Supervising Endorsement Seminars many years ago when he still lived and practiced transactional analysis in the United States (and that is another interesting tale yet to be told). Bill married a Brazilian psychologist, Maria de Lourdes, moved to Brazil, and taught transactional analysis for many years. In fact, he still practices TA along with his wife and associates in his clinic in São Paulo city.

Down south, in Argentina (and also in some southern Brazilian states), Roberto Kertez practiced and taught transactional analysis to many people, and he is an influential theorist on life positions. He currently teaches at a university in Buenos Aires. All of this seems to have started back in the 1970s, and once students became practitioners, they sought further education, mostly in the United States. Some became theorists themselves.

Among them are Rosa Krausz, Monica Levi, and Antonio Pedro, all of whom are well-published authors in Brazil.

Transactional analysis training and certification have been offered by UNAT BRASIL and ALAT, both with their own unique standards and procedures. Although thousands of people have learned TA in the region, today UNAT-BRASIL and ALAT might have close to 500 members altogether.

Scientific research on transactional analysis has been done in Latin America, mostly in universities because they usually offer funding, infrastructure, and staff. Brazilian universities approved several researchers in both master’s and doctoral programs. Currently, there are at least two major universities in Brazil and one in Argentina that offer TA postgraduate programs.

There are at least four transactional analysis conferences each year in Latin America. TA people are active and lively as they gather at these conferences, presenting their own praxis and methods and also getting rich contributions from presenters from other parts of the world.

All fields of transactional analysis are currently practiced in Latin America. A new and innovative field of practice, called judicial transactional analysis, has been started in Brazil by Rosa Krausz and Maria Garcia. This is offered by UNAT-BRASIL and the first class is about to graduate. Many lawyers, judges, and forensic professionals have profited from a whole new perspective that supports their practice in advising, consultants, mediators, and so on. So this is also another rich story to be written and told about how transactional analysis is unfolding in Latin America. Stay tuned for updates!

Erich Kosloski, the representative to the ITAA Board of Trustees from the Latin American region, lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil. He can be reached at erich.kosloski@gmail.com.
It is with excitement and pleasure that I invite you to join us for Eric Berne’s centenary celebration in Montreal, the city where he and I both grew up. I imagine Berne would have been touched and proud to have the international TA community gathered together in his birthplace to celebrate him, his achievements, and the development of his theory.

I have been energized and eager to be part of the organization of this conference for many months, but more recently I have been asking myself why I was so keen and what it meant to me. I thought it had to do with my pride at being French Canadian and my "racines Québécoises" (my roots from Que- bec), some of which Eric Berne and I have in common. Gradually, I became increasingly interested in how Montreal and its "culture Québécoise" fit into the narrative of transac- tional analysis and how Berne and the mak- ing of his theory were influenced by it.

The first thing I found out was troubling. Berne had been discriminated against because he was Jewish and may have been bullied by French Canadian children as a child. He appar- ently left Montreal because he could not get a local hospital internship; only two places were available each year for Jewish interns in the Montreal area (he narrowly missed getting one of them). All of a sudden my pride turned into shame. Was it possible that Berne’s life in Montreal was primarily characterized by xenopho- bia, oppression, and exclusion? Surely there were other narratives about more posi- tive influences on him and, equally, stories about the influence of his own Jewish culture on the Quebecers.

After finding more stories of anti-Semitism in Montreal history, some of my confidence was restored when I read "Jews and French Que- bec: Two Hundred Years of Shared History" (Rome & Langlais, 1991), an enriching and poignant account of how Jews and Quebecers shared a small area of Canadian land from about 1760 and joined forces to combat pres- sures to assimilate into British culture. Jewish people were the first wave of immigrants landing in Quebec around 1760. At the time, France was in the throes of surrendering the French Terri- tories to Great Britain following their victory of "The War of Conquest." Que- bec was the promised land. It was bilin- gual and welcomed many ethnic groups. It did not ask them to assimilate and dis- appear with the homogeneity of another culture. It was a land where they felt free to be themselves. The Jewish communi- ty and its neighbours (sometimes also partners) the francophone community, had a common destiny and shared histo- ry. They waged a parallel battle to pre- serve their language, faith, literature and culture (p. xcvii).

I also had the privilege of reading Berne’s unpublished memoir, A Montreal Childhood, generously offered to me by his son, Terrance Berne, who edited this sole autobiography of his father’s childhood. The book will be published in the future. I also had the privilege of reading Berne’s Unpublished material found among his papers after his death. This list will be updated in the coming weeks; to be sure to check the latest program on the conference website at www.itaacconference.com. We hope that you will be able to attend the conference. We look forward to seeing you in Montreal.

MANON PLOUFFE

REFERENCES


New Life from Old Roots for TA Associations

By Sari van Poelje

The following article is based on the keynote speech given by Sari van Poelje at the ITAA conference in Lima, Peru, in August 2010.

I have been an ITAA and EATA member since 1989, have filled many roles in these associations, and after 20 years am still inspired by TA every day. Transactional analysis has not only influenced me professionally, but it has changed my life in many ways.

Lately, however, I have been troubled by some dynamics in TA organizations. This keynote is my attempt to make sense of these dynamics using Berne’s organizational theory and my experience as a leader and consultant in organizations.

Glória Noriega talked in her Lima keynote about Eric Berne’s script as a factor in the development of TA. As an organizational Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst, I want to add a different viewpoint. Developing TA is not the only thing that develops TA organizations. And to me, it is not only script but mostly the organizational structure of the associations that is hindering our development.

Rhetorical question to readers: In your life as a transactional analyst, is your TA association close or far away from you? Do you experience your association as supportive for you as a transactional analyst? What do you experience as an important development in your TA association?

Opportunities or Threats?

Over their life cycle, organizations change through the dynamics on their boundaries, for instance, economic crisis in the environment, demographics of membership, change of leadership, and so on. It is usually only with hindsight that we can see these dynamics have been helpful in creating transformation or have actually confirmed a script pattern.

Among the things I have observed within TA associations are splitting into ever more schools/fields within transactional analysis, competition between different levels of associations and regions, and lack of leadership. What do you experience as an important development in your TA association?

Survival of an Organization

The purpose of any healthy organization is to survive as long as possible (Berne, 1963). In the Structure and Dynamics of Groups and Organizations, Berne mentioned three different types of survival:

- Physical: survival of the organizational structure
- Effective: survival of the ability to do organized work
- Ideological: survival of imago in members’ minds

For physical survival, the roles of leaders and members must be clear and based on a supporting constitution and culture. There also needs to be a staff (apparatus) that works effectively. For effective survival there needs to be enough members to fulfill the necessary roles. To attract enough members, belonging is an issue. For ideological survival, the need of members to preserve the existence of the group (cohesion) needs to be stronger than the disruptive dynamics at the boundaries.

How Are TA Associations Faring in Terms of Survival?

My observation is that TA associations are often distracted from their core purpose and functions by internal dynamics and psychological games. The core purpose of any association is to develop and maintain control of the legitimate practice of a profession and to safeguard the interests of its members and the public. Core functions are to:

- Develop and maintain accreditation
- Have a code of ethics and practice
- Develop and maintain recognition of the profession (e.g., research, publications, conferences, etc.)

Other functions may be nice to have but are not needed for an association to blossom and survive. For instance, as soon as the quality of accreditation is compromised (e.g., by inconsistent scoring because of lack of quality control over examiners or through in-fighting about criteria in different fields), we weaken the core of our association. As soon as our ethical practice is compromised (e.g., by decentralizing responsibility to local associations or even institutes and withdrawing the possibility of enforcing ethics through sanctions), we weaken our association. If we do not publish or represent transactional analysis at other conferences, we diminish our ethical practice. If we continue this way, we will not survive.

Rhetorical question to readers: What could you do to increase the recognition of transactional analysis in the fields in which you work?

In terms of effective survival, we need to maintain the enrollment of members, who have become more discerning, particularly as the economic crisis has forced many to re-examine their alliances. People are looking for increased added value, not only personally but professionally. For instance, a fast-growing association such as the International Coaching Federation (ICF) is attractive to members because it offers accreditation that is also recognized academically and in business. Businesses are hiring coaches who have the ICF seal of approval, which gives ICF members a competitive edge. How can we create a similar competitive edge through TA association membership?

Rhetorical question to readers: How could your TA association be of greater service to you as a transactional analyst?

In terms of ideological survival, we need greater cohesion in these times of transition. Cohesion is the need of members to preserve the existence of the TA association (Berne, 1963). There is much to be said about this, but by and large, there are three strategies for increasing cohesion:

1. Interpersonal attraction (Festinger, Schachter, & Back, 1950), for example, increase interdependence between regions and interaction between members
2. Social identity (Tajfel & Turner, 1979), for example, create positive in-TA association identity and maximize inter-TA association differences
3. Social exchange (Thibaut & Kelley, 1959), for example, increase rewards of membership by linking to academic accreditation

The psychological processes that support belonging are:

- Social identification: recognition that your TA association is more important to you than other TA associations
- Social representation: willingness to abide by shared values, ideas, and beliefs

Rhetorical question to readers: What could your association do to make you feel it is very important to you?

Transformation through Changing Organizational Structure

One way to support organizational transformation is simply to change the organization’s structure. Sometimes function follows form and not the other way around. Given the dynamics we are facing in the TA world, we do need to adapt the structure of all of our TA associations to fit current needs—from what used to be a pioneer organization to a diversified network organization.

I will use the development of the ITAA to illustrate the possibility of such a change. The ITAA began as a pioneer organization. The leadership was autocratic and charismatic (Berne), and members experienced belonging through their relationship with the leader (e.g., via the San Francisco seminars). A pioneer organization works well as a start-up and in a simple, dynamic environment (Figure 1). A typical issue in such an organization is the power-oriented culture and the symbiosis between leaders and members, which makes succession difficult.

At the height of ITAA’s power, it was more of a bureaucracy. The leadership in a bureaucracy is normative, and member belonging is created through compliance with rules and regulations. A bureaucracy works well in a stable environment that accepts centralization. One of the issues is a sense of meaninglessness and task orientation but a lack of passion (Figure 2).

The ITAA was also a diversified structure for a while. In such a structure, the leadership is target based, and belonging is created through the standardization of services, such as the Transactional Analysis Journal or exams. This kind of structure works well when servicing different countries and fields is required. However, results and cost management can become more important than members or investment in people (Figure 3).

Usually, the next step is a regional matrix. Leadership becomes based more on a professional or organizational expert, and belonging is created through the sharing of accreditation and ethical standards. A regional matrix works well when dealing with diverse, complex, and dynamic professions. It creates membership, belonging, and cohesion at the local level while facilitating global action to realize core functions (Figure 4).

I believe creating a regional matrix should be our next step in terms of the future of the ITAA. We would have a board consisting of the presidents or a delegated vice president from each region. The board would be chaired by one of the presidents on a rotating basis. We can already build on a solid accreditation process, a shared ethical and professional practice code, our own publications, and conferences, which we would keep centralized.

We would need to change in the following ways:

- More focus on and acceptance worldwide of the centralization of core functions in a worldwide structure (accreditation, maintenance of ethical standards, increase recognition)
- Delegating to regions all other functions, including development, conferences, publications, and so on
Consider the dedication of the Breakpoint book: “Today, across the planet, millions of people are creating a future different from the past. Your individual efforts are moving us to a time when the world will truly work for everyone. We dedicat this book to you.”

A sign on the wall of my daughter’s office reads: “There is no change without some discomfort.” I will add, “And there can be great joy.”

Jean Ridley Clarke is a parent educator and au-thor of books and curricula for parents and par-ent educators. She is the winner of the 1995 Eric Berne Memorial Award for her work in the area of applied transactional analysis in parent edu-cation. She can be reached at jrcounsellor@aol.com.

REFERENCES

It Isn’t Going Away
continued from page 1

I picture this as shown in Figure 1. The squares on the left represent the old structures and ways of thinking. They look stable. But people who try to pull them back do not take into account the fact that ways of thinking and struc-tures that worked well in the past did so because they were precisely attuned to the time; therefore, they cannot work well in the future. People who make new models need to remember that they may not work because we do not yet understand the future, and it is vitally important to assess the old structures and move forward and the parts of them that will support the future.

Transactional analysis will change because, since we are living in the chaos time, it must change. How? In what ways? That is up to us. We can move with that exciting energy. Eric Berne offered us great permission to invent, to create. We can view Berne as the Child ego state as a fixated repository of the somatic Child ego state, operating with- out the Child ego state and, protocol—again un-like script, cannot be cognitively changed or re-coded. It can only be brought into awareness, understood, and lived within.

Each of the three works individually offers a revised and restructured picture of Berne’s orig-inal thinking, with particular focus on the con- cepts of script, Child ego state, and protocol. Each concept benefits enormously from such robust reexamination, perhaps now more than the often overlooked Bernean notion of protocol. Together these works create a cohesive new pic-ture of the somatic Child ego state, operating with-in a revitalized script that, in turn, is basically based on protocol. In 1985, Bill revisited the idea of script as an emergent property of living. In his subsequent articles he built on this founda-tion with in-depth examination of the Child ego state and Berne’s relational concept of the script. In this way, he both honors and enriches his original conceptual thinking.

We live in a time of accelerated new discoveries and change. Any theory risks becoming dated if left untouched. Much to his credit, however, Bill’s does not. He challenges us to rethink theo-retical concepts by introducing a wealth of knowledge and information from fields outside of transactional analysis and by revising Berne’s original ideas in the light of new under-standing. By doing so, he fosters a continued evolution for Transactional Analysis theory, Thus making sure that transactional analysis remains relevant to contemporary thought.

Charlotte Duendelich with Laurie Hawkes, Elena Leigh, Charlotte Sills, and Servais van Beekum

Philosophy, sciences, history, etc., just gave us Les orientations reventes de l’analyse transac-tionale [Recent Orientations in Transactional Analysis], which is a gem. This wonderful little book manages to summarize six recent directions in transactional analysis in clear, precise lan-guage: psychodynamic, integrative, relational, body-relational, cocreative, and narrative. A chap-ter is devoted to each, with attention focused on the most relevant concepts for each conceptual-ization: transference and countertransference, ego states (José’s area of specialty), group work, and protocol, so name a few. I am not the only one to hope that, for once, a French book will be translated into English!

The Editions has come up with three other great ideas. The first is the Classiques, which are seven volumes of out-of-print articles, many of them from the early TAJ. The second is the index on the Web site of the Editions (www. editionsatf.fr). Anybody visiting the site can access the index and explore all the authors published by Actualités or search by themes. This is an invaluable resource when researching any TA subject. The third and most recent innovation is that arti-cles in our classic volumes, Actualités, are now accessible in PDF format for a small fee. For any first-time order, scanning the article to create the PDF takes a few days, but one can GET IT! So not so long ago you had to know some-one who had the whole collection of AAT’s and do an illegal photocopy.

Other publishers have also been active, which is an advantage because the readership is potentially larger. In the 1990s, hardly any new transactional analysis books were on the market here. Yet in the last 3 years, at least six books have been published by national publishers.

So, transactional analysis is quite alive in Paris and the rest of France. When we talk with col-leagues from other methods, they seem not to fill their practices as easily as do certified TA thera-pists. This is both a good and a bad, though I am not sure why. Something about the description of transactional analysis in books, perhaps, causes people to contact the TA associa-tion to find a TA therapist—as well as the way transactional analysis speaks to people with its apparently simple concepts and in optimistic out-look. And now, there is a sort of revival, with requests from publishers asking practitioners to write new TA books.

I suspect this is so in other countries, too, and would love to hear or read about such develop-ments. Where else is transactional analysis “alive and well and living in...”

Laurie Hawkes is a Teaching Transactional Ana-lyst who lives in Paris, France, and the editor of The Script. Please send news about TA in your country or region to her at laurie@noos.fr.

NOTE: Exams subject to availability of examiners/exam supervisors.
*COC CTA exam candidates who are doing the COC written case study must submit it no later than six months before the oral exam.

TA IN FRANCE
continued from page 1

New Life
continued from page 1

Please let us know your views by writing to The Script (robinflyer@aol.com) or me (jig.intact@gmail.com).

Sari van Ploegh is an internationally recognized coach, manager, and consultant and a Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst (organiza-tional). She has been working on the interface of people and organizational development for 24 years in a variety of roles and companies (e.g., Swiss, Singapore Airlines, ASML, KLM, Tran-savia, Berencheck, EMI). She is currently managing director of Interact (International Training and Consulting) and has published several books and articles on learning, leadership, and organi-zational development.

REFERENCES

EXAMINATION CALENDAR

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TA CONFERENCES WORLDWIDE
9-10 JULY 2010: Prague, Czech Republic. EATA Conference. Contact: Blanka Cepicka at info@esta prague.cz.
10-14 NOVEMBER 2010: Fremantle, Australia. 20th WPATA Conference. Contact: Linda Gregory at lgregory@ inet.net.au or www.wpata.com.au.

THE SCRIPT

MAYJUNE 2010 7
In Memoriam: Alice Stevenson

Alice Stevenson died at home on 15 February 2010 after a valiant fight with cancer. She started her transactional analysis training with Michael Holman and Michael Reckly in 1977, and Michael remembers that “she stood out from my trainees as ‘different’, even a bit rebellious early on, or, more politely put, challenging, which, of course, was one of the things I most liked about her, alongside all the charm and humor and professionalism.”

In those days we all trained like “journeymen,” traveling to find our teachers and training workshops. Georgie Thomson, Eilyn Bader and Pete Pearson, the McLendons, Richard Erskine and Rebecca Trautman, the Schiffs at Cathexis, Marge Reddington, Emily Ruppert, George Kohlrieser, Bill Cornell, and so many more. She became a CTA in 1979 and then a TSTA and enthusiastically continued her learning and development, actively involved in therapy, TA training, and promoting TA in the United Kingdom the rest of her life.

I first got to know Alice well when she was chair of the Institute of Transactional Analysis in 1981. I saw how gracious and humorous she was as she welcomed new members into the council. She greeted everyone with a smile that invited you to feel at ease, an insightful observation that showed she really knew you, and often a glass of wine for those of us who visited her home in Kent. She made us feel the warmth of her generosity and delight of being with her. Listening to her long funny stories about people and their foibles lulled us into a world where we knew that she would not let us get away with anything that was phony or not true to our selves. Her bright wit and wicked sense of humor challenged and delighted us. When we sat together in workshops or meetings, Alice would always turn and whisper some outrageous funny joke or observation, and I would splutter with laughter and get looks of disapproval while she grinned intimately. I always said that had we been in school together, she would have gotten me into such trouble. We became good friends and TA sisters. She called me “Queen of the North,” and I called her “Queen of the South.” She mischievously suggested we use the acronym QON and QOS after our names in a conference brochure alongside our other qualifications to see if anyone would notice. They didn’t, and we laughed about it for years.

With her trainees, clients, and colleagues she was able to share her love of life and transactional analysis. She ran a training program in South East England for more than 25 years, later with Steff Oates at the Cumbria, UK, conference and EATA. Alice was always at every TA conference, trainers’ meeting, exam site, AGM, and party. EATA awarded Alice their Gold Medal for outstanding service to the TA community in Sweden in 2003. In her interview with me for EATA Newsletter she said, “What happens between us, client and therapist, is more important than anything I can do myself.” This was also true of her attitude to training and life in general. If you were with Alice, you were part of the story, the intuition, the tears, and the laughter. She was wise, witty, compassionate, and generous. “Try to be a model for your students and fellow members, just like being a good friend to my husband and a good mother to my children.” Alice was a beautiful woman who touched our lives with joy. She was deeply loved by transactional analysts all over the world, and we shall miss her.

—Adrienne Lee

The following are excerpts of comments made by Steff Oates at the Cambria, UK, conference at the end of February.

Alice would have loved it here today. Alistair’s keynote on the potential of creativity reminded me so much of her. Her playfulness, her wit, her outrageous sense of fun combined with a vehement sense of social responsibility has placed her firmly in my heart and mind—and I’m sure the same is true of many others. Lis Heath told me this morning, “I will always remember Alice saying to me ‘Carpe Diem—seize the day!’ ’That was Alice for you!’”

Born in 1932 in Springfield, Illinois—coincidentally also the birthplace of Bart Simpson and family—Alice managed to combine the serious business of helping people to change with a healthy regard for finding humor in the ridiculous. In my experience, she was a master of the bull’s-eye transaction. Alice’s strokes hit home, as did her generosity in opening up her family home to trainees as myself who traveled a long way to work with her. Despite arriving late in the evening, I would be met with a warm fire, a drink, and always fresh flowers in my room.

Alice worked hard and played hard, with an un-canny knack of knowing the appropriate time for each. She was adament about good manners, often chiding the training group if we were not so welcoming to newcomers. She taught and lived transactional analysis, never missing an opportunity to use the theory to help her understand people. She also happily received and was excited about her trainees developing new ideas and teaching her.

I once heard it said that people are not dead until everyone knows who and remembered them was also Alice. I know that the generous, lively spirit of Alice lives on in me and in countless others who were blessed to have known her.

FROM WPATA PRESIDENT RHEA HOOPER

The organisers of the 20th Australasian TA conference are providing us with a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues, enhance and expand our knowledge and working practice of TA, and celebrate in November at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, Western Australia. The conference is shaping up to be a feast of thought-provoking stimulation. Our organisers have put together a fabulous programme, which will address all fields of interest. Both keynote speakers are experienced practitioners in their own fields—Adrienne Lee is a psychotherapist with qualifications and experience in TA and NLP, and Russell Harris is a GP and author specializing in ACT. Along with these keynote speakers, there will be workshops providing opportunities to explore TA in your roles as counselors, psychotherapists, educators, and organizational practitioners. So whether you are someone with an interest in TA, are currently studying TA, or someone who has completed training and been practicing for many years, there will be many opportunities to enrich your TA experience.

FROM THE CONVENORS

We look forward to your company at this 20th Australasian TA conference. Especially exciting will be the introduction of the Australian TA Association (ATAA) for the first time at this conference. There are lots of beautiful places to see if you are from overseas or interstate, and there will be tours that you can book to see the west. Please visit www.wpata.com.au for more information.

Convener: Linda I Gregory@iinet.net.au | Jani xoelman@bigpond.com.au | Judy judsonmor@iinet.net.au

HOTEL AND SURROUNDINGS

The Esplanade Hotel is Fremantle’s four-star international jewel of WA’s premier harbourside city. Fabulous restaurants, lobby bar, pools, spa, and saunas, all in the heart of Fremantle. Fremantle is just 20 minutes from Perth and is rich in history, tradition, and culture. “Freo” is famous for its museums, seafood, sunsets, and cruises on the Swan River.

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