the SCRIPT

ITAA
INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION

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Gordon Law Receives 2015 Muriel James Living Principles Award

by Diane Salters



The Muriel James Living Principles Award was established to recognize members of the ITAA who have advanced the growth of transactional analysis through personal example as well as by contributions of an exceptional and lasting nature. Gordon Law, the latest recipient of this award, more than fulfills these requirements.

When Thomas Steinert, Joanna Beazley Richards, and I decided to nominate Gordon for the James Award, we received wonderful letters of support

> *"The kind of man Gordon is and how he conducts himself is in keeping with the spirit of the award, which seeks to remind us that being a transactional analysis practitioner is not simply about receiving the training and passing the exams but about integrating the humanitarian, aspirational, and egalitarian principles of TA into our lives at every level."*

from Ken Mellor, Curtis Steele, Gloria Noriega, Lucy Freedman, Linda Gregory, John Monk-Steel, Joost Levy, Martin Wells, Sashi Chandran, and Anita Mountain. These colleagues come from all fields, various schools, and many geographic regions of the international transactional analysis community. The words and phrases most commonly used to describe Gordon were humility; interest in human values; experienced and knowledgeable; mutual respect; extraordinary generosity; integrity; compassion; thoughtfulness; transcending differences of color, race, and national boundaries; intelligence; a spirit of service; and inspiring.

Many people talked about the various ways in which Gordon had contributed to transactional analysis both in terms of his development of theory (particularly in formulating an integration of mind, body, soul, and spirit in transactional analysis; see Law, 2006), and his commitment to the growth of TA training in the United Kingdom. Gordon was one of

the earliest TA trainers in the UK, training with Margaret Turpin and Michael Reddy. He helped found the first transactional analysis association in Britain in 1974 and has, ever since, played an important role on both local and international TA committees to support training standards, ethics, and healthy processes within the TA community.

Mostly, however, people talked about Gordon's qualities as a person, including his commitment to the principles of transactional analysis and to his own continuing personal and professional development. Long before mindfulness became a buzz word, Gordon recognized the value of meditation both for himself and for his clients. He sought ways to integrate meditation and his developing understanding of consciousness into his TA theory and practice. He also sought to integrate all transactional analysis schools within his training on the basis that there was value in all. This emphasis on the kind of man Gordon is and how he conducts himself is in keeping with the spirit of the award, which seeks to remind us that being a transactional analysis practitioner is not simply about receiving the training and passing the exams but about integrating the humanitarian, aspirational, and egalitarian principles of TA into our lives at every level.

In summary, the nomination for Gordon Law was stated as follows: "We all are very happy to bring to the knowledge of the ITAA community his extraordinary talents, his shining attitudes, and his undoubted ambitions for the good of the international transactional analysis community, for his continuous engagement for humanity, equality in all aspects, autonomy of people, freedom and self-determination, and sister- and brotherhoodship. He was also cited for the following activities and contributions:

- Cochair of the ITAA Ethics Committee
- Contribution to the recent revision of the ITAA Code of Ethical Conduct and Ethics Procedures Manual
- Multiple continuous contributions to transactional analysis internationally and in the UK
- Frequent pro bono work for those in less privileged circumstances
- Demonstrating a high order of ethical thinking and practice
- Showing a humble, unpretentious attitude of service to the TA community
- Exhibiting excellence in professional work and written contributions to TA theory
- Empowering and supporting others as a teacher and trainer
- Offering personal generosity and trustworthiness in friendship

On a more personal note, Gordon is someone I have known since the early 1980s, first as a trainer and supervisor and then as a colleague and friend. I consider myself privileged to have known him in all those roles and to have always observed the high level of congruence that he brought to them, effectively embodying the "living principles" of transactional analysis. It was also important to me that we shared a country of origin, South Africa, which we had both left because of our opposition to the apartheid regime.

I look forward to seeing Gordon Law recognized and celebrated by his peers at the Sydney ITAA/FTAA conference this coming July.

Reference

Law, G. C. (2006). *Mind, body, soul and spirit in transactional analysis: An integral approach to relationships*. Malvern, England: IMPACT. (ISBN 978-0-9552287-0-4)

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Welcome to New Members

APRIL 2015

Miloš Cucko, Serbia
Patrick Ferrieux, France
Sung Heuk Hong, Korea
Edward Murray, Canada
Patrick Odendaal, Netherlands
Louise Ralston, UK
Frieder Rock, Germany
Karen Wells, New Zealand
Vanessa Williams, UK

What It Takes to Make a Book

by Laurie Hawkes



I was happy to interview Bill Cornell about the process of writing his recent book, which is published by Routledge. Bill was Script *editor for many years before I replaced him in 2010. Even though Bill is active and respected in both psychoanalytic circles and as a body psychotherapist, he remains strongly identified as a transactional analyst. He currently serves as one of the coeditors of the* Transactional Analysis Journal *and teaches transactional analysis and interdisciplinary subjects internationally.*

LH: Bill, you are one of the well-known "pens" in our transactional analysis community, having published many articles in the *TAJ* and also in psychoanalytic and body psychotherapy journals as well as book chapters and your volume of selected articles published by the ITAA in 2008. But I think this is the first time you have written an entire new book about your own material. What is it about?

BC: *Somatic Experience in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy: In the Expressive Language of the Living* is an effort to present a systematic understanding of working with the somatic processes that underlie our conscious and cognitive experience. It pulls together my efforts over the past 40 years to find ways of including direct work with bodily experience and organization within ongoing psychotherapy and counseling.

LH: Is this mostly new material?

BC: Yes, four chapters are based on previous journal articles (two of which are from the *TAJ*), but they are significantly rewritten. And the rest of the material is being published for the first time.

LH: Having written several books myself, I am interested in how it was for you writing with a book in mind instead of an article or series of articles. Was it much different?

BC: Definitely. With a journal article, typically one chooses a single idea to address and elaborate. With the book, I tried to convey the history of a therapeutic tradition and the evolution of certain ideas. I wanted to link ideas that have often been held in opposition to one another, with Reich and Winnicott at the heart of this history.

LH: And how was the actual writing experience of working on a book?

BC: This is the most difficult writing I have ever done. It took me 5 years to write this book. I had to find a way to bring aspects of psychotherapy and counseling that are fundamentally nonverbal into the verbal domain. This meant finding ways of writing that were more descriptive and evocative than theoretical, which proved to be incredibly hard. I

almost gave up after the first draft. In frustration, I gave the manuscript to my partner, Mick Landaiche. He could see what I couldn't, that I was writing to two different audiences: body-centered therapists and more psychodynamically oriented therapists. As a result, I was speaking in two quite different voices, making two different arguments, and the writing kept falling apart. Mick said that I had to choose my audience. Since this book is being published by Routledge in the Relational Perspectives series, I guess that tells you which audience I chose!

I then sent that revision to Christopher Bollas, who gave me a blunt and challenging critique. He said, among other things, to drop all the quotes and references and write with "the flow of your own prose-power" so as to create "a deeply personal statement." I was very shaken up by his feedback and almost quit again. But I had had this kind of feedback before. Bollas told me to write explicitly about what I actually do with my clients. I did a huge revision, and the book came alive. That was the version I submitted to Routledge.

Then it was in the hands of Lew Aron, my editor for the Relational Perspectives series. He, too, pushed me to write in an even more personal voice. He wanted me to write more about Reich and to bring the discussion about touch in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy to the front of the book (I had kind of buried it at the back). Lew had read an article about perversion that I had published in the *Transactional Analysis Journal* some time ago and thought it was the perfect way to end the book. So the concluding chapter is an elaboration of that paper. He told me to shake people up—especially the analysts—and give them something to think about. Lew's input, again, required a substantial revision and greatly improved the book.

LH: Gosh, 5 years and all that revising and rewriting. That is a very different process from what I am used to as a book author. It almost sounds like you could have written three different books!

> *"This is the most difficult writing I have ever done. It took me 5 years to write this book. I had to find a way to bring aspects of psychotherapy and counseling that are fundamentally nonverbal into the verbal domain. This meant finding ways of writing that were more descriptive and evocative than theoretical, which proved to be incredibly hard. I almost gave up after the first draft."*

BC: Yes, the editorial input was invaluable. Something I've learned as a *TAJ* coeditor is how important it is to help authors stand outside of their writing and to think critically about its clarity and focus. That's what Mick, Kit, and Lew did for me: They helped me see what I was wrestling with. Three books would have been easier for sure, but something would have been missed in the depth of the story that finally took shape through the revisions.

LH: I see a chapter on Wilhelm Reich: What do you tell readers about him?

BC: Reich is omnipresent throughout the book. Since my adolescence, his writing has had a profound influence on my thinking about the function of psychotherapy. Reich saw "normality" as pathological. The chapter specifically about Reich is one of the most heartfelt in the book. It is an elaboration of a talk I gave several years ago with Lore Reich Rubin, Reich's daughter, who was a psychoanalyst here in Pittsburgh. Reich was a brilliant, passionate, and deeply troubled man, and I wanted to provide a much more complete (and accurate) portrayal of him than the cartoonish version that is so often known. Part of Bollas's feedback to me was to imagine the book as a conversation with Reich. I think we could say this book is a kind of conversation with both Reich and Winnicott. The conversation with Reich through his writing and in actual conversations with his daughters, Eva and Lore, was about the centrality of sexuality as a primary developmental force. My enduring argument with Reich is about his unwavering certainty of the truth of his ideas. My Reichian training taught me how to get in the way of my clients' defenses. Through my readings of Winnicott, I learned how to get out of the way of my clients so as to create the psychological and somatic spaces within which they have the freedom to initiate and explore themselves.

LH: What else do you write about?

BC: I have provided many case examples in an effort to show how attention to the body in psychotherapy and counseling can be profoundly informative and enriching of the therapeutic process. Working actively with the body does not have to involve touch.

LH: Do you think that is an evolution in the field, that it is less acceptable to touch clients now than it once was? Or is it a personal evolution of yours to explore and use bodywork that does not involve touch?

BC: Both, really. As a trainer, I have had to face the fact that many, if not

most, therapists and counselors will rarely touch their clients beyond a hug or some form of comforting. Touch in psychotherapy is meant to be informative. So the question is how to teach ways of attending to the bodies (of both participants) in the room that does not require touch. In my personal evolution, the shift away from frequent interventions of physical contact had to do with my growing concerns about the mechanistic ways of working on (rather than with) the client's body in the neo-Reichian models. At the same time, I came to a fundamental disagreement with the emphasis on touch and body intervention in transactional analysis as a way to shift clients into regressive states. I wanted to find alternatives.

> *"With a journal article, typically one chooses a single idea to address and elaborate. With the book, I tried to convey the history of a therapeutic tradition and the evolution of certain ideas. I wanted to link ideas that have often been held in opposition to one another, with Reich and Winnicott at the heart of this history."*

LH: In the introduction to the book you write, "After graduate school I tracked down a trainer in transactional analysis, and in so doing found my professional home. The transactional analysis community was a refreshing contrast to what I had seen in the psychoanalytic institute. While deeply interested in both the inner and interpersonal lives of their clients, TA therapists tended to be much more practical in their approach to psychotherapy" (p. 10). So what place does transactional analysis have in this book?

BC: There is little overt discussion about TA in the book, although as you say, I make it clear that I identify as a transactional analyst. I think transactional analysis still suffers from Eric Berne's ignorance of and ambivalence about touch, the body, and sexuality. However, the book addresses many current questions in TA theory and training, such as the interest in protocol, implicit communication, transference and countertransference, bodily experience and expression, and the therapeutic relationship.

LH: Thank you Bill, I think *Script* readers will find it interesting to hear about how you, as an experienced author of journal articles and book chapters, found the process of writing a book. Perhaps it will stimulate some of them to consider developing in that direction as well.

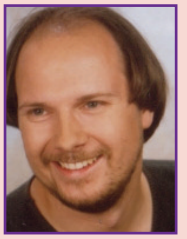
Laurie Hawkes is Editor of The Script. *She can be reached at hlaurie@noos.fr .*

Network of Transactional Analysts in Academia (NetTAA)

We are interested in establishing an international network of transactional analysts who are employed (full-time or part-time) in the tertiary education sector, that is, in universities and polytechnics. Initially, we envisage creating an email group that can act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and a source of information and support for those of us working in this sector. Beyond this, we hope that such a network would have a positive effect in promoting transactional analysis in this sector as well as in bringing the best of academia to TA, including supporting the two international journals of transactional analysis. In addition to being an email group, we also hope to be able to meet in person at international and national TA conferences. If you are interested in joining such a list, please email Keith Tudor at keith.tudor@aut.ac.nz and Gregor Žvelc at gregor.zvelc@guest.arnes.si with your name, your title/academic status, the name of the institution for which you work, and your email address. We will then complete a list and circulate it to those who have contacted us.



Dr. Keith Tudor, Associate Professor, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand



Dr. Gregor Žvelc, Assistant Professor, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department for Psychology, Slovenia; University of Primorska, UP FAMNIT, Department for Psychology, Slovenia

A Fraternal Link When Saying "Hello"

by Nicolas Hours

As I was nearing 40, I moved away from my original university training in mathematics and my career in finance management. And now, at 47, I am a young psychotherapist practicing in Paris, France.

I am writing to share the way transactional analysis serves as the foundation and structure for my volunteer work in the association Accès à la Psychothérapie en Soutien Social or APSOS (Access to Psychotherapy in Social Support) and as a listener for the organization Les Petits Frères des Pauvres (The Little Brothers of the Poor). In particular, the concepts of frame, contract, basic needs, strokes, psychological hungers, and time structuring have been particularly helpful.

APSOS is an association of psychotherapy professionals from various modalities. Created in 1995, it has grown to include 200 volunteer therapists who offer psychotherapy sessions at low rates (8€, a little over four times the cost of a subway ticket!). The only condition is that the person be low income. The client calls the telephone line, and that conversation serves to explore the therapy request and gather some personal information. The request and information are then communicated to a therapist, who can either agree or decline to see the person.

The next step is for the client to call us and meet in our office. After the first three sessions, we draw up a formal three-party contract (the client, APSOS, and the therapist) that includes the client's explicit request and goal for therapy. I like the formal aspect of that signed contract; it helps down the line to see how clients explore their chosen direction and make it their own.

APSOS clients can sometimes have quite serious problems. As a beginning psychotherapist, seeing a schizophrenic, perverse, or difficult borderline person in my own office rather than in a specialized setting with a team around can be problematic. Another difficulty is when I do not feel competent to help them. These two factors, as well as the exploration I do in supervision about such clients, are criteria I take into account when I decide whether or not to take on a client. When I say no, APSOS provides the client with the name of another therapist. Likewise, clients can say they want a therapist other than the first one they meet.

Each therapist can take on one to three clients via APSOS. The therapy lasts a year at most, and this limit is an important aspect to take into account when constructing a treatment plan. After that year, the client can no longer go through APSOS, but he or she may continue working with the same therapist at his or her usual fees.



"Working with people who are in difficult economic or psychological circumstances has made me acutely aware of how important the 'I'm OK, You're OK' position is in such interactions."

Nicolas Hours is a newly practicing psychotherapist in Paris and a transactional analysis trainees at the Ecole d'Analyse Transactionnelle-Paris-Ile de France, Psychothérapie (School of Transactional Analysis for Paris and the Paris Area, Psychotherapy). He can be reached at nicolas.hours@yahoo.fr .

The fee is paid to the therapist at the end of each session, and he or she gives the money to APSOS. In exchange, APSOS pays part of the cost of training sessions organized by APSOS or other organizations/trainers. This means that the therapist has no direct financial relationship with the client. What I receive for my work is training and peer exchanges, a social payment not connected to physical money, which seems consistent with the association's aims and suits me.

The other well-known organization in France with which I volunteer, Les Petits Frères des Pauvres, offers various kinds of help to people who are at least 50 years old and suffer from isolation, poverty, exclusion, or a serious disease. The association's stated goal is to "restore social bonds and reinstate individuals into a social fabric that will give them support." One or two volunteers are assigned to each client so that he or she receives continued follow up.

In my position as a listener with this organization, I realize how important time structuring and psychological needs are for the people we visit. As an example of the social isolation experienced by the elderly people we serve, one in four aged 75 and over have no more than three discussions per year. That is pretty close to stroke starvation!

In France, we are accustomed to shaking hands when we say hello. I realize how important that greeting is with an elderly blind couple I have been visiting when they extend their hands even though they do not see me. I think that the need for recognition by others is even stronger for the blind because they are not able to exchange glances and looks with others. Even their neighbors tend to come over less often to say hello to them. I think the same goes for people who are excluded socially, who are not really seen by those who are more integrated socially. Through working with people who are excluded or in difficulty, I have realized how important the moment of saying "hello" is and how much is communicated then.

We volunteers also have a fairly clear contract for our work with this association. Our role is to listen and to talk, not to clean or tidy up for people. It is important to respect this frame and also the time frame, for example, "Today I am available for one hour, is that OK with you?" Many elderly people go to bed early, so if we visit with them in the evening, it is important not to stay too long. Occasionally, we might run an errand for someone, although some clients admit that they sometimes make that request because they are afraid of not having anything to say. That is always a rich awareness to explore and can lead to greater intimacy.

Sometimes, when I notice that the client's energy is low, I use a sort of session contract: "Would you like us to take care of this today, to talk about that problem?" Such an agreement often raises the person's energy level and helps him or her to be-come more involved and less passive.

Working with people who are in difficult economic or psychological circumstances has made me acutely aware of how important the "I'm OK, You're OK" position is in such interactions. Developing who I am and who we, the client and I, are allows for exchanges that tend toward intimacy. Creating a social bond with these people means giving them a place. This bond is meant to support, contain, and accompany people, but it also nourishes me. I think of it as a fraternal bond, a kind of social action that enables a life to get back on track, back in movement, back among the lives of us all. This, to me, lends meaning to what we call humanity.

TA Conferences Worldwide

9-11 July 2015:
Rome, Italy.
EATA Conference: First TA Research and Theory Development Conference.
Contact: www.eatanews.org

29 July–1 August 2015:
Sydney, Australia.
ITAA/FTAA Conference. Contact: www.2015taconference.org

30 September–3 October 2015:
Lima, Peru.
XXXII Latin American Congress of Transactional Analysis (CONGLAT 2015). Contact: conglat2015@gmail.com

3-4 October 2015:
La Rochelle, France.
National IFAT Conference. Contact: www.ifat.net

7-9 July 2016:
Geneva, Switzerland.
EATA 40th Anniversary Congress. Contact: www.eatanews.org

2014 Financial Report

by Geethan A.

After many years of ending in a deficit, 2014 was a good year financially for the ITAA, and I am happy to announce that we ended it with a profit. There were two major contributors to reaching that position.

1. The 2014 World TA Conference in San Francisco contributed a conference profit share to ITAA amounting to US $12,400. I appreciate and thank Lucy Freedman and her team for organizing such a professional and profitable conference.

2. A major financial challenge in 2014 was the payment of US $33,888 to SAGE Publications for publishing the *Transactional Analysis Journal* (*TAJ*). Instead of using all the cash we had at hand, we decided to make this payment by borrowing US $24,000 from the ITAA's capital. We also decided that we would reinvest the US $24,000 once we receiving the royalty income back from SAGE in April 2015. This allowed us to use a minimum of US $9,888 from our cash balance to make the US $33,888 payment to SAGE. This helped us to manage our regular expenses without a cash crunch. Then, as planned, in April 2015 we reinvested the US $24,000 back to the capital fund.

Geethan A. is ITAA Treasurer and can be reached at ageethan@gmail.com .

I thank President John Heath and the ITAA Board of Trustees (BOT) for their consistent support and encouragement in helping to make certain financial changes that led to us ending 2014 with a profit.

Apart from this, as decided in the 2012 BOT meeting, the fund-raising committee looked at options for generating alternate income streams for the association. One option is the low-cost supervision exchange program that has now been established (see the April 2015 *Script* and/or the ITAA website homepage for details). We hope that going forward this fund raising through the supervision exchange project will add a revenue stream for the ITAA.

As treasurer, my hope is that in 2015 we generate a base fund for the *TAJ*. We all agree that the *Journal* is both an icon in the TA world and also a major publishing expense. At the same time, it also generates revenue in the form of royalties. We pay SAGE for their services for each year in January, and we receive royalties from the previous year in April. Managing the cash flow for these 3 months is an important and challenging financial task for the ITAA. I am recommending that we generate a base fund of US $30,000 to be used to pay SAGE in January, and once the royalties are received in April, the base amount can be reinvested in the *TAJ* account. Any funds generated through the fund-raising supervision project could also be used for strengthening the financial foundation for the *Journal*. In this way, we will have financial stability for the *TAJ* and the payments to SAGE can be made with ease, and the association as a whole will have better cash flow and profitability.

The provisional budget for 2015 shows a profit of approximately US $2,000. I am hoping we will also end this year with a profit.

ITAA Profit & Loss
January - December 2014

	Actual
Income	
Membership Dues	133,540
Contributions	100
Conference Income	12,400
TAJ Income	38,952
Script Income	500
Royalty Income	2,868
Product Sales	1,456
Total Income	**189,816**
Expense	
Outside Personnel	31,606
Taxes and Licenses	2,016
SF Conference Expense	5,176
Marketing/PR Videotapes	150
Legal	2,608
Operations	9,614
Web Development	9,614
Board Expenses	12,164
Awards	576
Insurance	1,687
TAJ Expense	61,165
Script Expense	25,770
T&C Service Fee	9,557
Staff Expense	110
Bank and Credit Card Fees	7,333
Total Expenses	**$179,859**
PROFIT	**$9,957**

Our New Articles of Incorporation

by John Heath

In the May 2015 issue of *The Script*, we announced that there would be a ballot on the proposed new Articles of Incorporation. I am delighted to announce that members have voted in favor of the changes, so the new articles will be registered in California soon.

This historic achievement defines the purpose of the ITAA in a new way: "To promote awareness and understanding of transactional analysis, a psychology of human behavior, communication, and problem solving designed to enhance the lives of individuals, groups, organizations, and communities." Our original purpose referred only to work with mental illness and psychiatric and emotional disorders, which now are mostly associated with the clinical or psychotherapy field. The new purpose encompasses all of our fields and so captures the modern breadth of our theory and practice. I particularly like that we have included community development because I have long been believed that the spread of humanistic psychology is a force for good in the world. I think we can all be proud to be part of an organization that includes this in its scope.

The new articles open the way to a major overhaul of our bylaws. Now we can simplify and clarify the rules and procedures by which we operate to reflect our identity as a networking organization of skilled and interested individuals committed to the spread of our humanistic philosophy. We have, in a sense, planted our legal and official roots where we need them to be so that we can more freely grow the organizational structures necessary to fulfill our aims. All changes will be subject to member consent, of course, and you will be kept informed as we go along.

The board of trustees is committed to creating and maintaining a culture of cooperation and consultation within the ITAA and also between the ITAA and other TA organizations. We believe a flatter, less hierarchical structure with more functions in the hands of member committees is the way to go. Bill Holloway, our current Latin American regional representative and a former ITAA President, has led a small working group that has been very busy combing through existing bylaws and the legal documents that lie behind them. Bill will present detailed recommendations to the board in Sydney, and we will go through the entire bylaws together to finalize them so that they can be put to members for approval. We hope to present our final recommendations at the annual general members' meeting in Sydney and to the wider membership for a vote soon after.

In many ways this is the tedious end of committee work, but without it we could not operate and certainly not move toward the root-and-branch level of change necessary to move the ITAA forward from its original purpose to one that suits the modern world. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bill Holloway for his work so far. Thank you also to our members who voted positively to support these changes. In 2010 the board first expressed its intent to transform the ITAA into a networking organization that could take its place in the family of TA organizations around the world. Members were in favor of that at the time and now, after many hours of behind the scenes work, we can make this an official reality.

I shall reach the end of my term as ITAA President in Sydney. The successful completion of this part of our change process will be a most gratifying marker with which to end. My heartfelt thanks to all who have been involved.

John Heath can be reached by email at johnheath1105@gmail.com .

TAJ Theme Issues

"The Practitioner's Vulnerability: Professionalism and Protection"
Guest Editors: Steff Oates and Ann Heathcote
Deadline: 1 January 2016

"The Sense and Nonsense of Research in the Human Sciences"
Coeditors: Bill Cornell and Mark Widdowson
Deadline: 1 July 2016

Please make sure to follow the submission requirements posted here. Email manuscripts to *TAJ* Managing Editor Robin Fryer, MSW, at robinfryer@aol.com

New ITAA Board Officers and Trustees Announced

We are delighted to announce the following results of the call for nominations for the ITAA Board of Trustees open positions this year:

Vice President, Research and Innovation: Diane Salters (returning)

Vice President, Operations: Emily Keller (returning, was previously the North American representative)

Vice President, Professional Standards: Thorsten Geck (new)

Treasurer: Geethan A. (returning)

Trustee, South Africa: Alex van Oostveen (new)

Trustee, South America: Bill Holloway (returning)

Trustee, North America: Michael Harsh (new)

We thank those members who are returning to the board and welcome the three new trustees, whom we introduce here.



Thorsten Geck (Germany) has a passion for TA that began with a TA 101 in 1995. He has a degree in psychology and is a Teaching and Supervising Transactional Analyst in the organizational field. He works as a freelance consultant in leadership development and organizational counseling. Thorsten is an EATA language coordinator and contributes to the scientific committee of the German TA Association (DGTA). His commitment to the ITAA goes back to 2012 when he was asked to cochair the International Board of Certification (IBOC). His main motivation for contributing and volunteering is his understanding that TA associations live and benefit from volunteering and giving back what members received during their training from mentors, examiners, audiences and supervisees, boards of trustees, presidents, and delegates. He writes, "I believe that transactional analysis will evolve and improve by linking to the real lives of clients, research, and maintaining standards. I perceive standards as an opportunity to maintain quality. The dark side of standards, however, should not be neglected. Standards create boundaries at which people and their interests may sometimes be left out and kept on the 'other side of the fence.' I understand that it is a challenge to balance flexibility and persistence regarding standards to maintain the good reputation TA has in the professional world. This is what I want to pursue in the position of VP Professional Standards."



Michael Harsh (United States) is a psychotherapist who regards transactional analysis to be the most transformative mode of engaging the human psyche in enduring, desired change. Over 11 years, he received instruction and supervision from Vann Joines, Mary Goulding, Fanita English, and others in classical transactional analysis, redecision therapy, relational therapy, developmental theory, and personality adaptations. Michael's background includes a BA in philosophy, a Juris doctorate, an MA in Christian spirituality, and an MA in counseling. He has been in private practice as a psychotherapist in Omaha, Nebraska, since 1997. When participating in an intensive program as both therapist and client in a redecision workshop at the Southeast Institute for Group and Family Therapy, he was struck by the con-

New ITAA Code of Ethical Conduct and Ethics Procedures Manual Approved by ITAA Board

The ITAA Board of Trustees has unanimously approved the new ITAA Code of Ethical Conduct and Ethics Procedures Manual. It can be found on the ITAA website in the section titled Governance Documents at https://itaaworld.org/sites/default/files/itaa-pdfs/gov-admin-docs/12-5-14%20Revised%20Ethics_0.pdf. The new code was developed over the last 2 years by a task force composed of Vann Joines (chair), Janice Dowson, Vladimir Gussakovski, Diane Salters, and Charlotte Daellenbach. The task force was also assisted by Gordon Law and Thomas Steinert, cochairs of the ITAA Ethics Committee. We are excited about the new code and manual and hope you will go to the website and take a look.

Vann Joines, Task Force Chair

structive framework of TA, which asks people who come to therapy not how they are, but instead, what they want to change about themselves. This, along with TA's assumption that the individual is already OK, struck a chord with him in terms of who he understood people to be and how therapy works as a collaborative process. So inspired, Michael obtained Transactional Analysis Advanced Practitioner Certification from the USA TA Association, a Certificate in Redecision Therapy from the Southeast Institute, and in 2013 became a Certified Transactional Analyst. He hopes to contribute to a North American and worldwide expansion of transactional analysis, and to this end, is working toward instructional relationships with other practitioners that are supportive, collaborative, and encouraging.



Alex van Oostveen (South Africa) is a coach supervisor, a corporate and personal coach, an appreciative inquiry facilitator, and a transactional analysis trainee who currently serves as the secretary for the South African TA Association. He has always been keenly interested in how people's inner being impacts their doing, and transactional analysis has provided him with a number of clear perspectives on this that are applicable to individual and social contexts. He writes, "I have experienced and believe that TA is particularly effective in bringing peace, progress, and wholeness to Africa and its psychological dynamics. Africa has suffered centuries of injustice and tragedy that continue to manifest macro- and microscopically across the continent. The growing shift in awareness of global issues and technology's positive impact on communication, travel, and education provide a powerful platform for turning our continent's scripts around. Apart from advancing the use of TA in developing private individuals and their societies, its use in organizational environments will benefit African communities on a grand scale. TA provides a simple, tangible theory that can be grasped by those without higher education (a problem in Africa as a whole) and as such is ideal for helping people to make sense of themselves, each other, and the world around them. My intention as Africa representative will be to promote and support the use of TA at all levels of society so that it may act as a catalyst for Africa's beautiful people to think, feel, and behave with awareness, self-worth, mutual respect, and authenticity."

Contacting the ITAA

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ITAA Membership Meeting and Proxy Form

Members are urged to attend the 30 July 2015 membership meeting at 18:15 in Sydney, Australia. If you cannot attend, please fill out the proxy form below. The ITAA Bylaws state that the quorum for conducting business at the membership meeting is 50 voting members or 5% of the qualified voting membership, whichever is smaller. Please sign and send the form to the ITAA Secretary Mandy Lacy at mandy@lacyconsulting.net by 23 July 2015 or file it with her at least 30 minutes before the scheduled time of the meeting. This general proxy will only be used to establish a quorum.

Proxy Vote Form

I (please print) _____ herewith assign my proxy vote to the secretary of the ITAA or to (print name) _____ to be used only to establish a quorum at the membership meeting of the International Transactional Analysis Association, convening on 30 July 2015 at 18:15 in Sydney, Australia.

Signature: _____ Date:_____

Come together
the power of group dynamics

2015 Sydney ITAA/FTAA Conference

29 July - 1 August | The Menzies Hotel | www.2015taconference.org

Key Information

Conference website: www.2015taconference.org

Conference Facebook page (for frequent updates on conference preparation): www.facebook.com/pages/ITAA-Conference-2015-Sydney/298228757035196

Register today at www.2015taconference.org/the-conference/registration

Key Dates

28-29 July:
TA 101, Exams

29 July-1 August:
ITAA Conference (starts the evening of 29 July **with a cocktail reception)**

2 August: Postconference Workshops

2-4 August: TEW

ITAA Conference: An Experience for All of Your Senses

Although the program for this year's conference is a highlight, with four internationally recognized keynote speakers and over 20 workshops presented by experts from around the world, we are equally proud to bring you this conference in the beautiful city of Sydney. In fact, the places and attractions that exist within easy reach of the conference venue offer many options for making the most of your visit, even if you are only staying for the conference.

The Menzies Hotel enjoys a prime location in Sydney, with famous attractions a short stroll away, including the Sydney Opera House, The Rocks, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Darling Harbour Precinct, and The Royal Botanic Gardens. The hotel also has the luxury of direct rail access to the airport and nearby accessibility to public transport. Within 15 minutes easy walking of the venue you will discover the following:

- **Museum of Contemporary Art:** cutting-edge Australian and international modern art housed in a grand waterside Art Deco building
- **Museum of Sydney:** a historical collection/exhibit built on the ruins of the house of New South Wales's first governor
- **Sydney Opera House:** At Australia's most famous multivenue performing arts center, book tours and/or attend a special performance when Sir Simon Rattle conducts the Australian World Orchestra for two electrifying concerts with guest mezzo-soprano Magdalena Koûená on 29 and 31 July. The Opera Bar at the Opera House provides spectacular views of the Opera House and Circular Quay with an imposing view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.
- **Sydney Harbour Bridge:** Stroll across the pedestrian platform and stop midway to view the harbor or book a bridge walk that takes you up and over the famous arches.
- **Royal Botanic Gardens:** Nestled between the central business district and the harbor, the Royal Botanic Gardens is an ideal escape, with seasonal gardens including herb, roses, fernery, and tropical gardens. Combine a walk to the gardens with a visit to the Botanic Restaurant, a stunning venue that serves classy modern Australian cuisine among the greenery of a tropical rainforest and boasts wide wisteria-draped verandas and spectacular leafy views.