IN MEMORIAM: Elaine Childs-Gowell

Our TA community recently lost a brilliant, wise woman. Elaine Childs-Gowell was born in Africa. Her parents, missionaries in a remote area, had been trying unsuccessfully, to convert neighboring villages to the Methodist faith. Shortly after Elaine’s birth, the elders of the village arrived to see the baby. The chief sat down under a tree, the infant in his arms, and stared intently at her. The others in the party also looked carefully at the child. After a short conference, they returned Elaine to her anxious mother and announced that this baby was the new queen of their tribe. It seems that the chief’s wife had died a few days before. The one who was supposed to know about such things had told the chief that his wife’s spirit would return in a white baby and Elaine was that child.

That was one of many stories we heard on July 30 at the Memorial Celebration of Elaine’s life at the Edmonds Conference Center in Edmonds, Washington. This year’s conference in Istanbul was the first ITAA Conference Elaine has missed in 30 years.

You know her articles. Her books include her Ph.D. thesis for Anthropology in a study of the Cathexis Community (Reparenting Schizophrenics: The Cathexis Experience), Healing Your Inner Child, Stages of Ages, Rechilding and Regressions, and Regression and Protection, her fine description of therapeutic holding that is safe for the client and for the therapist. Probably, many of you have attended Elaine’s workshops on grief and have used Good Grief Rituals.

Many people whom Elaine trained to be therapists and many people who put broken lives back together with her help sprinkled rose petals by her picture at her Memorial Celebration.

I shall miss this dear friend.
Jean Illsley Clarke,
JICONSULTS@aol.com

Practicing since 1970, Elaine established a private practice in the Northwest in Seattle, WA as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. She was a Certified Transactional Analyst, as well as a Training and Supervising Transactional Analyst.

She was presented with the Muriel James Living Principles Award at the ’03 ITAA conference in Oaxaca. This award acknowledges consistently living the principles of transactional analysis, which includes but is not limited to clear Adult thinking, joyful creativity, compassionate ethics, and a lack of gaminess in transactions with others. Elaine was such a person, she modeled egalitarian relationships and promoted an "I'm OK - You're OK" atmosphere in both her professional and personal arenas.

Elaine served for many years on the USATAA Council as the Pacific Regional Representative.

We will also miss her.
Editor’s Note:
By Angela Berquist

I should explain more about the new look and feel of the NET. Although there will, of course, be some talk about news and events, the primary focus will be on the free exchange of ideas. The NET community serves a special purpose: we share ideas that are given space to develop into work that can later be submitted to formal journals or even develop into books. Here, you can take chances. Use this tool! Express yourself.

We want TA to forge a way into a new era. This won’t happen unless we take chances!

As editor of the NET, I extend three invitations:

1) I extend an invitation for you to stretch your mind and practice your writing skills in a safe environment in which you submit articles to TA_Neteditor.net.

2) I extend an invitation to those who can, and wish to, review new books that contribute to a new vision of TA.

3) I also invite you to share with us work that you have done, or projects that you plan to undertake.

AND REMEMBER:

The theme for the Winter 2006 issue is how TA impacts broad contemporary social problems.

The theme for the Spring 2007 issue explores how an understanding of TA contributes to positive interpersonal relationships.

The theme for the Summer 2007 issue explores the future of TA in dealing with today’s world.

NEW BOOKS AND NEW (OR OLD) NAMES

Hostage At The Table – How Leaders Can Overcome Conflict, Influence Others, And Raise Performance

by George Kohlrieser

Quote from the Jacket of the book:

"G.K. is an international leadership professor, consultant, and veteran hostage negotiator. He explains that it is only by openly facing conflict that we can truly progress through the most difficult challenges. He reveals how the proven techniques and psychological insights used in hostage negotiation can be applied successfully to any personal or business relationship."

Kohlrieser’s words provide the spirit for the theme of our upcoming issue: How TA Deals with Serious Contemporary Social Issues.

Kohlrieser summarizes the problem well when he writes that the 21st century has entered with many signs of disorder, including the use of terrorism; the ascendency of political and religious fundamentalism; natural disasters, perhaps initiated by global climate change; and cultural globalization. To deal with stresses caused by these events, Kohlrieser feels we must manage our emotions so that we still have the capacity to be joyous. By dialoguing and looking honestly into ourselves, Kohlrieser hopes that our hearts, minds and spirits awake so they take you to new places in your life, both personal and professional.

Fanita English adds: “For us, in the TA community, we are proud to claim George as "one of our own." Not only has he been involved with TA since 1970 and had a TA Institute in Ohio before moving to Switzerland [where he now lives] but, in addition, he is a past President of ITAA and has produced a fascinating video-tape for sale through ITAA.

Kohlrieser still does some workshops in the U.S and will be in the Bay area in December – as well as planning to participate in the forthcoming ITAA conference in August 2007. See the fine interview between Script Editor Bill Cornell and George Kohlrieser in the ITAA SCRIPT of May/June 2006.

In the following issue we will either have a full review of George's book – or perhaps he will allow us to publish excerpts from his book.
Turkey: Reflections on Trust in Uncertain Times

By Lucy Freedman

Being involved in TA opens the door to great and varied experiences. Traveling around the world with friends, learning words in new languages, meeting TA people from the host country and beyond, inviting everyone to San Francisco for next year’s conference, visiting homes and natural treasures in a faraway land: this is the icing on a good life.

The TA World Conference brought us to a center of cultural richness in Istanbul.

With the theme, Trust and Uncertainty in the 21st Century, the keynotes and other conversations led to deep reflection on the current state of affairs in the world, our understanding of trust, and our personal roles in creating the kind of transformation that we envision in the TA community.

The conference attracted delegates from 26 countries. There was a good contingent from the US, many from Turkey, Romania, the Netherlands, India, Japan, and the UK, and groups from Korea, New Zealand and Australia, as well as a surprising few from Germany, France, Italy and Belgium. Macedonia and Serbia were also represented, as were Russia and South Africa. We had one from Mexico, one from Chile, one from Iran, and one from Nigeria. We were sorry that the delegates from Lebanon had been caught in the outbreak of war between Hezbollah and Israel and could not attend.

The Lebanon-Israel war and other tragic incidents in our awareness brought up questions about TA’s purpose. People asked whether there are ways to have a greater impact on how international conflicts are resolved. Bill Cornell and Gianpiero Petriglieri brought attention to our personal and collective blind spots and ‘stuck places.’

Both Bill and Claude Steiner gave us new insights into Eric Berne, specifically that Berne was investigated by the FBI for traveling to Russia, and maintained a non-political stance after that. Claude himself, of course, was instrumental in the Radical Therapy movement and was very consciously political. Jim Allen gently raised questions about how we can understand the personal tragedies of some ITAA members, following on Claude’s recognition that when Eric Berne died, he fulfilled the script instructions that he was writing about at the time.

In lunchtime meetings, hallway conversations, and workshop activities, USATAA members and council members gained current knowledge of what’s happening in associations worldwide, tuned into the feelings and thoughts of our ITAA co-sponsors for the San Francisco conference, and were further motivated to continue making USATAA a collaborative partner with TA people and associations everywhere. Our common interests emerged and we will have the opportunity to build on them with the conference and other shared projects. See the highlight section for what’s going on in TA internationally.

Many angles on societal, organizational, and personal trust and uncertainty were explored during the conference, while the logistics and flow of the program and social events demonstrated generosity, efficiency, and warmth. The focus of the closing ceremony was for people to share with a partner, and then with the group, what they would take away with them. The statements were a moving testimony to the profound impact of TA and of gathering to inspire and learn from each other.

It’s still up to each and all of us to be active in creating a world where people can live in peaceful, OK-OK relationships and communities. Our goal for the San Francisco conference “Cooperation and Power: Relationships, Choices, and Change” is to empower TA, and to allow people to live in peace.

Lucy Freedman
lucy1@synux.com

Save the date:
August 8-12, 2007
Come to San Francisco for the ITAA/USATAA Conference.
Watch www.usataa.org for more news.
Lucy Freedman, Felipe Garcia, Dianne Maki, John Sears and Ravi Sethi, just happened to meet at a restaurant on the street in the old section of Istanbul.

The food was wonderful, as was the company.

By Lucy Freedman

Innovations we heard about include the Institute for Developmental TA in England offering a certificate for young people who take a course in relationship skills.

Karen Pratt from South Africa brought a video documenting her ITAA-supported program to teach TA in an overcrowded and very poor African school. The messages from the principal and students showed the great value they placed on this learning.


The Eric Berne Memorial Scientific Award was presented to Ted Novye for his research on the efficacy of Transactional Analysis treatment. He sent a letter since he could not be present to receive it, in which he said the award was a “delicious stroke.” Carol Solomon, Ph.D., received the Muriel James Living Principles Award and gave a heartfelt acceptance speech at the ITAA Membership meeting.

Jim Allen, who has served as ITAA President for the past three years, said his farewell at the membership meeting, and was greatly applauded for his collaborative leadership. Jim is President until the end of this year, when Gianpiero Petriglieri assumes the office.

Report On The Istanbul Conference

By Abe Wagner

At the conference, representatives of twenty-eight countries gathered at one gala event after another. One such event was on a boat trip on the Bosporus. At one point we passed a bridge that connected Europe and Asia. Any participant that didn't gain 5 lbs during the conference wasn't paying attention.

It was the Rolls Royce of conferences. Organizational Transactional Analysts will now form a communication email network. That was decided by roughly thirty people at the conference of conferences in Istanbul. In this network, Transactional Analysts will share ideas and answer each other’s questions. If you're interested in receiving email, contact Abewagner@att.net.

Lucy Freedman and Felipe Garcia did a great job of promoting the San Francisco ITAA/USATAA Conference to be held next year. "Great" seems to be a word used frequently when describing those two. See you in San Francisco.

PEOPLE

Fanita English is working on an article for a forthcoming book edited by Bill Roller of the Berkeley Group Education Foundation, entitled *The Captive Society – How Americans Enslave Themselves by What They Think and Believe*. It will be months before the book appears, but Fanita promises she will contribute something for NET readers to read in future issues.

Abe Wagner reports that he is training 3 different groups in Cairo, Egypt—all related to the oil industry. Their response to TA is excellent. He intends to introduce it to circles beyond the corporate culture. He indicates that, in Egypt, he has never met nicer, kinder more friendly people.

Congratulations to Barbara Littlehorse on earning her Ph.D.!
Angela Berquist, the published author of a number of books, both fiction and nonfiction, conducted successful workshops on cruises around the Hawaiian islands. Her focus was on learning to put authentic feelings into words. She teaches that honest self-reflection is the key to good writing. She stresses that writers must be fearless in facing their emotions.

USATAA Education Committee Center of TA Renewal

Notes from the Telephone Meeting

By Jonathon Wagner

The committee’s mission is to inform all mental health workers from drug counselors to psychiatrists to case workers to therapists, along with business consultants and educators, in the helpful basic concepts of transactional analysis. Successful planning units of these core concepts have been taught to consultants and a prison group. Now under the guidance of Denton Roberts, the committee is looking forward to a program co-sponsored with the upscale Timberline Hospital’s staff for their addiction counselors and other community professionals.

Persons with professional standing who complete the core concepts course will be eligible to attend a series of advanced training workshops. With the successful completion of these courses, the graduates may list themselves as trained in Transactional Analysis. With membership in USATAA, they can be listed on the USATAA website for professional practices.

Gloria Noriega, a past president and current board member of ITAA is interested in meeting with all the associations around the world that are planning intermediate training so she can report back to the board. With our training program we are again part of a world-wide movement to make transactional analysis theory and methods readily available to educators, organizational developers, and mental health professionals.

One of the difficulties that has faced USATAA growth is the need professionals have for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) that has emerged in the past twenty plus years. Bill Krieger, who was the crucial person in establishing professional recognition and CEUs for professional counselors, provided the committee useful information about the difficulty in being able to grant CEUs.

There are big stumbling blocks. While each professional group has its own standards and method of certifying providers of CEUs, unfortunately, CEUs are primarily needed for state licensure. Requirements in many states differ from the national professional standards.

Ray Quiett successfully enrolled us to offer CEUs for professional counselors and Toppie Lincicome is administering them. The next two large national groups are Social Workers and Psychologists with about a million persons between them looking for CEUs. Anna Long is at work on the forms for psychologists while Bobbie Barry and Val Chang are well into the social work forms.

Be assured that we are working to increase our ability to offer CEU credentials, even though it is a complex process. For instance, when we get the form approved by the National Association of Social Workers, we will be authorized by 25 states automatically. The next step will be to analyze which additional states can seek authorization not only based on our ability to bring training there, but on the number of professionals likely to want our CEUs.

Because of MS, which has me confined to a wheelchair, I have been limited to computer courses for my CEUs. While it is difficult to find useful and challenging courses on the Internet, the ones I find are superior to those offered in local workshops. With this in mind, I expect that our programs can attract people from all relevant professions as we expand the list of professional fields that can receive CEUs from us. Down the road we will develop on-line courses also.

When thinking about the trainers we have available, the committee began to think about the possibility of using trainers from other parts of the world. Several of the committee members had just returned from the ITAA conference in Istanbul and were impressed with the wide variety of adaptations that have become standard in various areas of the world. I sensed an interest in stimulating Transactional Analysis in the USA by bringing in trainers who use these adaptations.
There was also interest in having contact with the European trainers who will hold a trainer-sharing day prior to the conference in San Francisco in 2007. This trainer-sharing workshop is now an annual event in Europe. At least one committee member would like to start that tradition in the USA.

Believe it or not, we got a lot of business done besides the above topics in our hour and a half phone meeting.

*Jon Wagner, M.Div. LCSW
Web Site: www.counseling-stl.com*

**REGIONAL REPORTS**

**USATAA Midwest Regional Report, Summer/Fall of 2006**  
*by Bobbie Barry*

I would like to start this report with some information on a TA resource in the "Chicagoland" area. We have been fortunate for many years to have a group, the Chicago Transactional Analysis Institute, for learning and exchanging views. The group meets every other month on Friday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00. Janet Migdow is the President, Pat Novey is the Secretary, and Ted Novey is the Treasurer. In addition to presentations and discussions on designated topics, we also watch TA on tapes or DVDs for the first hour, followed by an hour of discussion. The meetings take place at the Novey's house. If you will be in the area and would like more information, you can contact Ted Novey at 847-729-5133. In the past, we have also sponsored a yearly all-day workshop. Our last workshop was presented in the spring of 2005 by Janet Migdow, on "What the Trauma Story Doesn't Tell." The aim of the workshop was to remind trauma therapists that there is more to the client than their experience of trauma. In particular, she discussed the relevance of clients' personality structure (ego states and drama triangle roles) and their script. This workshop attracted many non-members, and Janet did a beautiful job of explaining TA concepts, properly referenced, in a way that newcomers could understand.

I also would like to introduce one of our members who responded to my request for information on how they became acquainted with TA. **John B. Houck, Ph.D.**, is both an Episcopal priest and a practicing psychotherapist, dividing his time between his congregation and his practice. He has worked in Chile, Germany and England in the past. John wrote, “Bobbie, you asked where we first heard about TA. **Morrie Haimowitz** came to IIT (Illinois Institute of Technology) and spoke to us doctoral students in 1973. I started training with him and Natalie the following year and have been using TA ever since. It is mostly in the background in my therapy groups and work with individuals, couples and families, but sometimes I draw the drama triangle on the whiteboard, talk about time structure, or diagram a couple playing uproar.”

If you want to find out more of how John integrates TA into therapy, look up a description of his work in the Articles section of the USATAA website, at **www.usataa.org**.

Please let me know about any other TA activities in your part of the Midwest, either individually or as part of a group.

*Roberta (Bobbie) Barry
bobbiebarry@hotmail.com*

**USATAA Northeast Regional Report**  
*by Barbara Littlehorse*

Marian Weisberg and I were among individuals who attended a weekend workshop on using Gestalt techniques in couples therapy that was presented by Anne Teachworth this summer, and are encouraging her to offer ongoing workshops in New York this fall.

New York State has "grandfathered" me in as a New York State licensed psychoanalyst, which, is pretty wonderful since, although I have attended courses through a New York Psychoanalytic Institute over the last three years, I received my professional certification under the auspices of Vann Joines through the Southeast Institute. This is a nice "pat on the back" for TA professional recognition.

*Barbara Littlehorse
it22@aol.com*
USATAA MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Become a member of USATAA and support the growth and application of Transactional Analysis in the United States. Visit our website, www.usataa.org, for a list of member benefits and organizational information. Membership for one year is $35 and entitles you to the member rate for the Nashville conference. Please fill in the form below and send along with a check payable to USATAA to:

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A Gathering is a conference without pre-arranged workshops where we create the daily program as we go along. Ask for a topic you’d like to learn about, offer a workshop you’re working on, try an article out on your peers, or simply join in. Everyone participates as leader and follower, teacher and learner. Think of what you want to share and bring the materials with you to make it happen.

“It’s a Free Child experience.

Registration Form

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Housing will be filled on a first come first served basis.  We will attempt to honor requests.

Make checks payable to: USATAA Jamaica 2007 and send to: Ravi Sethi – 110 Daly Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931