The San Antonio conference was a peak experience for those who attended, and a gratifying conclusion to all the work, anxiety, and creativity that went into making it happen. We had a chance to highlight the contributions of several of our members. Here we have given just a snippet of their contributions to our community. Since the conference, several of our dear friends and colleagues have passed away. We celebrate the lives of Denton Roberts and Anne Teachworth in this issue. Now USATAA is looking ahead. We invite you to volunteer for one of the council vacancies described on page 8.

USATAA M & M Award: Lucy Freedman

The USATAA M & M Award is presented annually to persons who give outstanding leadership in Transactional Analysis through USATAA in the spirit of Muriel James and Mary Goulding who received the inaugural award in 1991. Since then, the award has been presented to Felipe Garcia, 1993; Chris Boyd and Gaylon Palmer, 1997; Val Chang, 1999; Morris and Natalie Haimowitz, 2002; Grainger Weston, 2004; Lyman Rigby, 2005; Jon Wagner, 2007; Jeri Ayers-Scott, 2008; Fanita English, 2009; and Dianne Maki in 2010.

At the USATAA San Antonio Conference Awards Luncheon, Mary Westphal presented Lucy Freedman with the 2011 M & M Award. Lucy has been active in USATAA since its inception and has held nearly every position on the Council. Her years of leadership are felt in every area of USATAA today as she continues to serve. She has shown outstanding leadership and it is difficult to imagine USATAA without her brilliant guidance.

Lucy’s response

When I received the award, I jokingly said that ever since I saw people getting this award, I have been angling for it because it comes with chocolate. Sure enough, the M&M's have been much appreciated.

Even more special was the fact that one of the M's, Muriel, was there, as well as other USATAA founders Fanita, Felipe, and so many good friends and colleagues.

Speaking from the heart, I said that this group is my family. In many ways that is true. My basic belief that people are OK and that it is important to live in that way is what has motivated me to continue to support TA training, events, and our association. When people experience OKness in our community, we are successful. The impact I hope to have is for USATAA to operate in such a way that people can easily participate, feel valued and work together to spread TA.

When Felipe and others envisioned USATAA, I believe we were ahead of our time with the emphasis on consensus, a horizontal rather than hierarchical structure, and inclusion. This is more challenging to implement than it at first appears. In addition to shared decisions, we need to learn how to balance the work.

During USATAA's lifetime, new media have begun to reshape how we can interact with each other and the public. I believe that the future of USATAA will be a combination of in-person and online communities. Our effectiveness will depend on people stepping up to envision that future and engage in OK-OK gatherings with training and exchanges among colleagues. Let's invite and encourage new leadership to take us forward.

With gratitude for your friendship and enthusiasm for the future, I thank you for choosing me to receive this year's M&M Award.
**Welcome Emily Keller to the USATAA Council**

Emily Keller is the new Southwest Regional Representative for USATAA. Though raised in the Southeast, Emily Keller was born in Paramaribo, Suriname, and lived for a little while in Israel. Additionally, she has traveled to many countries and enjoys getting to know people from all walks of life.

She graduated with a counseling degree in 1999 and started out working with people with severe disabilities and their families. Eventually, she worked for a company that designed technology to help severely disabled children and adults communicate with loved ones and go to school or work. It turned out that she was good at helping the engineers, artists, and managers understand each other, and was quickly recruited further into the tech world until she ran a small business supported by telemedicine contracts.

She also has a background in writing and editing, and has worked for a newspaper, ghost-authored a memoir, and worked in public relations.

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**Southeast Region**  
*Kim McClelland, southeast-rep@usataa.org*  
Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, foreign countries other than Canada

**Midwest Region**  
*Ken Taber, midwest-rep@usataa.org*  
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**Southwest Region**  
*Emily Keller, southwest-rep@usataa.org*  
Oklahoma, Texas

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*Janet Lee O’Connor, rocky-mountain-rep@usataa.org*  
Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona

**Pacific Region**  
*Catherine O’Brien, pacific-rep@usataa.org*  
Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Alaska, Hawaii

Emily writes, “I first learned about TA from friends and Professor Sharon Shallow in my graduate program in Greenville, NC. Years later, when I quit my job to stay home with my first son, I decided to focus on learning TA. I drove once a month from South Carolina to Greenville, for a monthly training group with Sharon.

“Later, my husband's career moved our family to Chapel Hill, NC. While there, I participated in the post-graduate training program at the Southeast Institute. When it came time to move to San Antonio, I was delighted to learn that I could continue my training, this time with Felipe Garcia.

“Today, I incorporate TA into my work with clients in a private practice as well as my work with children and adolescents at a local psychiatric hospital. Additionally, I have presented at conferences held by the Texas Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors and the Texas Counseling Association. And received the 2010 research award for my TACES presentation about TA.”

Emily can be reached at southwest-rep@usataa.org.
**DENTON ROBERTS REMEMBERED**

[Denton Roberts, who passed away on December 12, 2011, was a founding member of USATAA. He was USATAA’s third general coordinator – true to form, he joked that he was the “Coordinator General.” — Eds.]

**by Sheryn Scott**

Denton served as my pastor, my therapist, my supervisor, my mentor and eventually a colleague. I can’t quite say he taught me everything I know but he definitely laid the groundwork for the teacher, trainer, therapist and mentor I am today. I still use his words, his examples and his ideas as I train therapists and work with clients. My only regret is that I had not been in contact with him the last few years. I wish I could have told him how much he meant to me at so many levels. He was TA in the Los Angeles area for many years. He applied it to social issues as well as individual and interpersonal problems. He was a patient and insightful supervisor and therapist. He also taught me a lot about parenting as he described his relationship with Cort and Dane. I treasure my memories of the fishbowl training at All Peoples as well as training near the Kern River where he had a pack station for a period of time. I feel privileged to have learned so much from him. He will be missed by me and many, many others.

**ANNE TEACHWORTH REMEMBERED**

[Anne Teachworth was the Southeast Regional Representative for USATAA in 2009. She died on February 3, 2012. The following notes are adapted from her statement in USATAA News, Spring 2009, news reports, and a Wikipedia entry on Psychogenetics — Eds.]

Anne Teachworth was the Director of the Gestalt Institute of New Orleans/New York, which she founded in 1976. She was a Certified Gestalt Therapist and a Fellow of the American Psychotherapy Association.

Anne was introduced to Transactional Analysis when she joined a group in 1972. Fascinated, she went to several of Bob and Mary Goulding's workshops, and then into Gestalt Training for the next few years. In 1977, she began NLP Training.

Anne specialized in couples counseling, using a transgenerational approach, described in her 1996 book, *Why We Pick the Mates We Do*. Called Psychogenetics, her approach is close to Redecision Therapy – she made the connection when she presented her work at the ITAA Conference in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Psychogenetics is grounded in what people observe about their parents’ interactions. “Everyone is programmed to fill one of those parental roles and find someone to fill the other,” she said. “As a couples counselor, I see this happening all the time. I’ve dealt with couples who picked the same partners, over and over.” Couples counseling sessions focus on reprogramming the inner parent relationship, inherited from each partner’s parents and, in many cases, even earlier family generations.

Shortly before her death, she completed the manuscript for a book, *History Repeats Itself*, with her latest theories about family transgenerational patterns.
JOHN GLADFELTER LIFE VALUES AWARD:
Jean Illsley Clarke

[The USATAA John Gladfelter Life Values Award is given once or twice a year to persons who live and teach the values of Transactional Analysis in ways that positively impact their communities. Dianne Maki presented the award to Jean Illsley Clarke in San Antonio.]

by Carol Gesme

Having known Jean Illsley Clarke for over 30 years it is a pleasure for me to be writing this in recognition of her receiving the John Gladfelter Life Values Award. During these years I have consistently witnessed her living the principles of Transactional Analysis. I have watched her model and promote an OK-OK atmosphere in both her professional and personal work. She lives, breathes and models TA theory. She is an expert at helping people turn TA theory into applicable practice that they can use on a daily basis. In opening her home for a multitude of trainings and workshops Jean ensures that TA is passed on to the next generation.

Through her use of TA in the parenting field and her many books, she has given parents a new way of approaching their child’s development. These are just a few of the things that make her so deserving of this award.

Jean’s response

I am deeply honored by my TA colleagues giving me this award. Walking the talk of I’m OK You’re OK has always been the most challenging part of TA for me. I’m grateful for the many colleagues who have helped me on that journey. Hedges Capers and Russ Osnes, my mentors, walked the talk and showed me how. Jeanne Wiger and Elaine Childs-Gowell consistently supported and taught me. Carole Gesme and many other educators helped me design OK-OK ways of teaching. Co-researchers and authors David Bredehoft and Connie Dawson have walked with me. Many others, like Jon and Laurie Weiss, have been a phone call away as they encouraged my writing projects. Truly, it takes a village to raise a grownup, and I am highly appreciative of my worldwide TA village.

FELIPE GARCIA HISTORY AWARD: JONATHAN WEISS

[The USATAA Felipe Garcia History Award is given once or twice a year for significant contributions to the founding or collaborative care of USATAA. At the San Antonio Awards Luncheon Abe Wagner presented the award to Jonathan Weiss for his years of faithful availability to USATAA. And then Lucy Freedman presented the award to Laurie Weiss for her many years of collaborative communication creativity to the USATAA Coordinating Council.]

by Lucy Freedman

When Jonathan and Laurie were selected this year, we had no difficulty in speaking about their longtime presence, their activity as presenters, their integration of new learnings into their practice and into our community, and their willingness to share forays into print and online publishing so that brave souls could follow. As Abe Wagner, who presented the award to Jonathan, knows, they have been a stalwart TA presence in the Rocky Mountain region. In recent times, Laurie has written catchy subject lines and copy, and has given us direction on conference blogs and emails.

We had the opportunity to spend more time with each other at the Jamaica Gathering, where Jonathan and Laurie skillfully led us through the basics of Logosynthesis. TA is a big part of their lives, and they are a big part of ours. We recognize their contribution to USATAA with great affection.

Jonathan’s response

I was surprised and delighted to receive the Felipe Garcia History Award in San Antonio. USATAA and the TA community have been at the center of my professional life since I was in graduate school, and I'm honored to be acknowledged as an important part of the community. I'm going to hold the award as an Unconditional Positive Stroke.
FELIPE GARCIA HISTORY AWARD: LAURIE WEISS

Through her writings, Laurie Weiss has been sharing her experiences and insights with the TA community for decades. Her vivid personal accounts have brought TA conferences back to life for attendees and have prompted others to wish they were there. She has written not only about the highlights or the content of a conference, but also about the energy and excitement surrounding the people at the conference.

Laurie and Jonathan have continued to learn and experiment with ways of helping people, bringing their learnings back to the TA community through presentations at conferences and gatherings.

The Felipe Garcia History Award was first given to Felipe in 2009 in New Orleans at the Mary Goulding Memorial Redecision/TA Conference. Then in 2010 it was presented to Maryln Crossen and Lucy Freedman for their contributions to the founding of USATAA.

Laurie’s response

I was both stunned and delighted to receive a Felipe Garcia history award at the San Antonio conference. So much was happening, that I didn't listen very well immediately after the announcement and didn’t take in what the award was for.

Over the years I've become fascinated by influencing people through the written word. It's really an extension of helping people do what they truly want to do as a therapist. But because it's been in the "unprofessional" field of marketing and writing advertising copy I haven't talked much about it. It has been a great pleasure to use those skills to reawaken people to the delights of attending our conferences.

So many of you have been such an important part of my life for so many years that I can only say thank you. Thank you for the award and thank you for the work that you've done to keep this organization a living presence in all of our lives.

USATAA COUNCIL APPRECIATION AWARD: CHUCK HOLLAND

[At the end of the Awards Luncheon in San Antonio, the USATAA Council surprised Chuck Holland with a special Council Appreciation Award for his contributions to USATAA.]}

Chuck was recognized for promoting TA, especially through the Transactional Analysis Practitioner (TAP) program and the USATAA Recognition and Awards Committee, which he continues to lead.

The USATAA TA Practitioner Training Program is designed to ensure that a new generation is exposed to the proven principles and techniques of Transactional Analysis. Chuck has been active as an organizer and presenter in TAP programs in his region and in Jamaica. He hosted the inaugural one in Dallas in 2008, where eleven people received the first TAP certificates, followed closely by a TAP program in Fort Worth.

In Jamaica, Chuck has worked with Mico College in Kingston to create a summer TA course for teachers.

The USATAA awards program was expanded in 2008, with Chuck taking the lead in forming an Awards Committee and establishing the Felipe Garcia History Award and the John Gladfelter Life Values Award.

We thank Chuck for his tireless efforts on the Council, for his service to the community, and his overall enthusiasm for TA.

Chuck’s response

As Master of Ceremonies at the Awards Luncheon in San Antonio, and as Chairman of the Awards Committee, I was delightfully surprised to be presented the Council Appreciation Award. Being on an awards committee pretty much disqualifies the members for awards so I have seldom received an award myself. I loved how sneaky the Council had been to surprise me.
What made the USATAA Conference in San Antonio I ponder so enjoyable?

How great it was to see so many familiar faces, to reconnect with old friends and to meet new people coming to join us.

The program provided new learning and included a wide variety of sessions. Among them were presentations on in-depth psychotherapy (Cornell), child therapy (McClelland) and timely information on treating people with PTSD (Masse, Holland). A wonderful experiential workshop on healing factors in the therapeutic relationship was presented (Sills and Joyce). In a refreshing twist, Janice Dowson showed us that both Eric Berne and Sigmund Freud understood that “great literary writers had a vital capacity to explain humanity and present new perspectives on human challenges.”

The setting was outstanding – the haunted (?) and elegant Menger Hotel was completely enjoyable … both gracious and grand. The proximity to the San Antonio River Walk made the whole experience festive and fun. What I loved the most was the superb work of the conference committee. This was a beautifully organized conference. The timing of the events maintained a brisk but relaxed feel and workshops were scheduled conveniently and lasted just long enough. Work-time and play-time were gently balanced.

From the opening surprise of the spirited drumming experience, a perfect way to engage the Child, to the moving moments of the closing we were provided with stimulation, warmth, contact and learning.

This was a conference that truly lived up to its name. I will look forward to the next USATAA conference.

If you have not yet read Remember Ben Clayton by Stephen Harrigan and you are a truth seeking, serious minded man or woman, you will enjoy this book. Of course many San Antonio events and places like the Alamo and the Menger Hotel are mentioned. For Transactional Analysts coming together to learn about “Healing Relationships Everywhere” knowing about the human wounds that need healing is essential. This fictional novel has just enough real events and places to assist us in seeing clearly how trauma begets trauma and that healing relationships is the way to heal ourselves and our societies and ourselves.

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The Menger is where Teddy Roosevelt recruited men in the bar. Just a few feet away from that bar TA men met on two mornings to process their feelings and realities during the conference. This is a long-term historical tradition at TA conferences and some rarely miss this opportunity. Appropriately at the Menger they met in the Cavalier Room. Those in attendance this time were Bob Avary, Felipe Garcia, Chuck Holland, Vern Masse, Rich Midkiff, Tom Nissley, Ray Quiett, Ken Taber and Jonathan Weiss. Each opened emotionally and quickly to each other and helped provide a powerful protective and trusting environment.

This safe space gave permission to heal personal masculine traumas that have wounded relationships. Maybe we were the Davy Crockett’s, Santa Anna’s and Sam Houston’s of this decade. There is mystery in healing society’s wounds. Sometimes a bond between men helps the healing in amazing ways.

If you are interested in the mystery of why Santa Anna and Sam Houston did not kill each other ask me sometime.
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ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

USATAA Coordinating Council Vacancies.
The USATAA Coordinating Council announces current and upcoming vacancies for the following positions: General Member, Southwest Regional Representative (Texas and Oklahoma), and Northeast Representative (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Canada).

All members of the Coordinating Council meet monthly by phone conference, and once annually in person in order to guide, facilitate and execute the work of USATAA. Members agree to participate equally and accept tasks and special assignments designed to promote USATAA and TA throughout the United States. Additionally, they promote TA through regional, national, and international conferences and events.

Specifically, Regional Representatives are members of the Advisory Board, which assists the Coordinating Council. They commit to a term of three years and participate as members of that council. During their tenure they stimulate, coordinate, and participate in a variety of activities to promote TA throughout their region. As members, representatives also would greet, communicate with, and report the views of members in their region, and perform other tasks as agreed upon with council members.

If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, please contact Lucy Freedman at lucy1@syntx.com for more information.

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