EDITOR’S NOTE
This special issue of the NET covers the Mary Goulding Memorial Redecision / TA Conference co-sponsored by the Redecision Therapy Association and USATAA in November, 2009 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Much appreciation to those who contributed to this issue: Phyllis Jenkins, Janice Dowson, Jim Wrightsman, Len Campos, Ravi Sethi, and acting editors Lucy Freedman and Dianne Maki.

FANITA ENGLISH RECEIVES THE M&M AWARD

For her continuing contributions to the theory and practice of Transactional Analysis and to her commitment to Transactional Analysis in the United States, Fanita English received the M&M award at the New Orleans conference; Dianne Maki and Lucy Freedman made the presentation. Fanita noted, “I feel terrifically honored and pleased by having received the M&M award – the beautiful glinting bowl and the M&Ms with my name!”

Fanita has served as an ad hoc member of the USATAA Council and has hosted the Council’s annual retreat in San Mateo since 2004. She has actively participated in the teaching and design of the TA Practitioner training.

Fanita English came to New York in November 1941 as refugee from Paris, where she previously obtained a Diploma in Child Psychology from the Sorbonne. With an MSW from Bryn Mawr, she worked as a clinical social worker, trained at the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute, and had a booming practice when she became enthused by Berne’s TA in Psychotherapy and impulsively became the first trainee of the newly formed TA Institute in Carmel, California in 1964. Later she also trained with Fritz Perls. She moved to Philadelphia in 1970 where she founded the Eastern Institute for TA and Gestalt, having been “anointed” by Berne as his “satrap” after he cured her of writing phobia and published her first article in his TA Bulletin. As of 1979, Fanita worked exclusively in Europe – mostly in Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy; having moved to California in 1993 she now does so only for 2-3 months a year.

THE M&M AWARD

The M&M Award for outstanding leadership in Transactional Analysis is presented annually to persons who give leadership to USATAA in the spirit of Muriel James and Mary Goulding. Muriel and Mary were guiding founders of USATAA. They developed the first national conference held in San Francisco in August 1984, which established USATAA as a viable organization. The distinctive identity of USATAA is in large part built on the inspiration of these two outstanding Transactional Analysts. Muriel and Mary celebrated the inauguration of the 1984 conference with M&M candy and since then USATAA leadership has had a special fondness for M&Ms. The award was given first in 1991. Through the presentation of this award USATAA hopes to reinforce the principles that are epitomized by these two inspirational leaders.

“Scripts And Episcripts” with Fanita English, a 2-DVD set
This educational program was recorded during an invited pre-conference institute by Fanita on Scripts and EpiScripts, Decisions, Redecisions, and “Hot Potatoes” at the Mary Goulding Memorial Redecision / TA Conference New Orleans., Fanita describes developmental processes and script formation. USATAAA members may place orders at the special rate of $60 (20% off full price) until September 30, 2010.
A REPORT ON THE MARY GOULDING MEMORIAL REDECISION/TA CONFERENCE

by Phyllis Jenkins, Conference Co-Chair (with Dianne Maki)

“The Best Conference I Ever Attended”: this is what many reported of their experience at the Mary Goulding Memorial Redecision/TA Conference in New Orleans, November 5-8th, 2009! Kudos to our many fine presenters; all institutes and workshops were warmly received by participants; information was of the highest quality and the delivery was lively and interesting. Many thanks and appreciation to our Keynote Speakers: Harville Hendrix, PhD, James Allen, MD, Steven Lankton, LCSW!

Harville Hendrix delivered an inspiring and emotional keynote in telling the story of how Bob Goulding acknowledged him as a master therapist at a month long training. He recounted the evolution of Getting the Love You Want and Receiving the Love You Get, now printed in 57 languages. Most inspirational were his words about how he and Helen experimented with and found power in their intimate relationship through honest communication and the elimination of negativity in all forms, including ‘constructive criticism’ (which they eventually decided doesn’t exist: criticism is criticism, period!). That led him to comment on generating peace in the world through helping couples find peace in their relationships; when families are peaceful, communities become peaceful.

The Hilton Staff showered us with good ole New Orleans charm and hospitality. The rooms were of spa quality. And what can we say of the area beyond what you would expect: AWESOME. Only steps or a trolley ride away from the hotel that houses one of New Orleans’ top chefs were many more notable restaurants in the French Quarter and the Garden District. We were indeed well taken care of. And of course, beignets! Mmmmm, good.

Harville Hendrix ready for his keynote

Mary was remembered at opening ceremonies with a video generously shared by Inger Acking, LCSW, with whom Mary lived the last several years of her life. Fulfilling a specific request of Mary's, we had jazz combos, ensembles and a soloist for each public ceremony: opening, banquet and closing ceremonies, thanks to Anne Teachworth’s knowledge of her New Orleans hometown.

A very memorable surprise came when the jazz ensemble took a break and Quentin St. Clair from London, England, was invited on stage with his guitar. Q soon had us jumping and dancing as he strummed and sang away. Awesome!

The long-awaited publication of the book that Mary had been editing, Redecision: Expanded Perspectives... Then and Now, was realized. Flyers for the book, edited by Les Kadis and Mary McClure Goulding and published by Jeff Zeig for Zeig, Tucker & Theisen Press, were offered at a discount to conference attendees. You can get the book by going to ZeigTucker.com or by calling 800-666-2211.

There are too many heartwarming moments to recount here; hopefully attendees will share their stories in this and future newsletters. For those of you who were in attendance, we will share this special moment in time forever; for those who could not come for whatever reason, you were missed and I am sorry you weren’t able to share in the experience.

This was truly a celebration of a great woman enacted thru the actions and stories of those she trained with and those she trained personally. In closing: we will always remember you with fondness and love Mary! Your spirit marches on through many whose lives you touched!
FELIPE N. GARCIA USATAA HISTORY AWARD

This new award will be given once or twice a year to a person or persons for significantly contributing to the founding or continuing history of the USATAA organization. Felipe was one of the founding members and has contributed years of service to the ongoing history of USATAA.

Lucy Freedman presented the initial award to Felipe Garcia with the following words: “In making the first presentation of USATAA's new History Award to its namesake, I want to recognize the special qualities with which Felipe has graced the Association from the start. Felipe Garcia is a visionary. His dedication to equality, inclusion, and a cooperative structure informed the design of the organization with coordinators and regional representatives rather than traditional hierarchical roles. Felipe continues to remind us to include and empower the members in all of our decisions.

“At first, I hesitated to give Felipe an award called ‘History’ with the implication of great age... until I remembered that he will always hold the place of the 'youngest child' adored by all!”

[The following excerpt is from a note from Felipe Garcia to the USATAA Council.]

“I am so pleased with the honor you bestowed on me with the Award. Thank you very much. As I assume you know, USATAA has been like a child to me. I am happy of how much work you all do to keep it vibrant and relevant.

“I suggested in my thank you talk that you include, or rename, the award to include Collaboration. USATAA is one of the few organizations, even in the TA world, that attempts to operate from and support organizational structure that operates from an OK-OK paradigm and redirects hexarchy and competitive transactions to collaboration for winning together.

“Blessings to you and your work to make TA relevant in the US. Thank you very much for this great honor.”

USATAA MENTOR JOHN GLADFELTER HONORED

by Jim Wrightsman

The new John H. Gladfelter USATAA Life Values Award will be given one or more times annually to a person or persons for significantly contributing to one’s community or environment utilizing the life values of Transactional Analysis. The initial award was given to its namesake, John Gladfelter. As USATAA’s Southwest Regional Coordinator, I had the honor of accepting the award in New Orleans on behalf of John as he was unable to attend the Mary Goulding Memorial conference due to his health.

John is and has been a mentor to hundreds of Transactional Analysts and Group Psychotherapists. He lived, walked, talked and more importantly taught the values of TA in every community that he represented. All of these environments were enhanced by his contributions.

John Gladfelter was born in Tomahawk, Wisconsin on October 17, 1926. His favorite early pastimes were magic, showing off, and lecturing to cows. This shows the fun and magical Natural Child that is alive and well in him today.

John was a pioneer in group psychotherapy and until recently very active with the American Group Psychotherapy Association. In 1965 at an AGPA conference in San Francisco, he met Eric Berne and was captured by the language and theory. Later he said “TA is the most effective and potent method of thinking about human behavior that I have ever found. I love TA!”

On December 6, 2009, the award was presented to John at Grace Presbyterian Village. Several of his local and long known colleagues attended. He was touched at receiving this award and commented how wonderful it was to be honored by his colleagues in this way. I read the award letter from the USATAA Council to him.

Here is an excerpt:

“As one of USATAA’s all-time important members and one who has continually contributed to all your environments with the best life values of Transactional Analysis, we are proud to name this award for you. Our beloved Dr. John Gladfelter, we are all thankful for what you have done for Transactional Analysis and we are proud to call you friend.”

John’s close friend and colleague Gail Ardman, LCSW, LCDC, and LMFT, was in attendance and commented, “Lots of fun was had by all and especially John who seemed to be very happy with receiving his honor while we were all present.”
BEYOND SCRIPT DESTINY*

by Leonard P. Campos, Ph.D

Therapy is a song of life against impossible odds. (Goulding, M., 1985)

“Life script” vs. “Life course”

I propose we draw a firm distinction between the concepts of “Life Script” and “Life Course.” Berne (1972) was primarily interested in life scripts, based on the effects of positive and negative parental programming and the young child’s adaptation to it. He stated (p.53-54) that “The script is what the person planned to do in early childhood, and the life course is what actually happens. The life course is determined by genes, by parental background, and by external circumstances.”

Inherited traits, like mental retardation, are not chosen decisions of a script that can be redecided. The same can be said regarding birth circumstances where we do not have a choice to belong to a certain culture, gender, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic identity. These attributes could be construed as “genetic scripts,” but they cannot be changed through therapy intervention.

Outside of scripts there are also family social status factors that determine what chance we have for success and happiness, such as differences in social class, economic status, and educational level. All these influences can be as powerful as scripts in determining a person’s life outcomes.

Of particular interest to this author are the effects of what Bandura (1986) referred to as the “fortuitous determinants of life paths.” This refers to the powerful influence of chance encounters and events that don’t fit into any definition of a programmed life script.

As an example, many of us came in contact with Transactional Analysis by chance and not by any planned conscious choice. In the spring of 1968, while I was working at a California Youth Authority facility, our institution was peremptorily selected to use a TA treatment program with the simple toss of a coin, while an adjacent facility was mandated to use behavior modification in a federal treatment method comparison research study.

The luck factor

A lot has been written about the influence of “the luck factor” on our life course. Csikszentmihalyi (1996), in his studies of creativity, shows how many great discoveries throughout history have occurred by chance. Just about everybody experiences runs of good and bad luck—experiences that just “happen” to people. Even Berne (1970) slips away from life script theory when he says (p. 261), “Be willing to happen to somebody and somebody will happen to you.”

Many examples can be given but it’s only necessary to mention the unexpected calamity of 9/11 in America to illustrate how its effect changed the lives of many people and American society. One profound effect of the event was the creation of a deep collective awareness of risk in life.

Chance vs. choice

Our usual task is to help release clients from their negative scripts so they can freely choose to have a more positive destiny. But, as stated above, we had no choice in certain birth circumstances. These all affect the direction of one’s life course. Some of us were born to privilege, others to disadvantage. The former can take advantage of opportunities not open to the latter group.

Robinson (2007), reporting on the results of an Economic Mobility Project, showed that only 6% of children born in poverty move up to the highest income level in adulthood, compared with 42% of children born to affluent parents. Other studies (Reese, 2007; Gladwell, 2008) have shown that success in sports, such as tennis, is mostly determined by social advantage and not talent.

Those of us who have worked with disadvantaged populations in public mental health clinics, foster care facilities, group homes, and prisons know how the odds work against them. An example are the 80,000 foster youth in California that are provided with only 5% of the financial support that average parents spend on their children (Benson, 2007).

Another example is the criminalization of many minor drug offenders and wrongful convictions of close to 300 cases that were later exonerated by DNA evidence. Before the discovery of DNA, these individuals would have been wrongfully convicted of crimes they did not commit. They had no choice to be incarcerated; they just by chance were in the wrong place at the wrong time, left at the mercy of witness misidentification.

Chance vs. responsibility

Many of us were trained to believe that “In the final analysis nothing lasting is ours through luck, chance, or accidents” (Tanner, 1973, p.41). From this stance, if we are harmed by a chance encounter or event we are solely responsible for how we react to it.

This may go contrary to what actually happens in life. We do have the task of helping clients develop a sense of responsibility for their behavior. In promoting autonomy we don’t accept “It happened.” We counter with interventions such as “Things don’t just happen, we make them happen.” In working with clients who feel victimized we assess whether or not they are playing out a victim role or setting themselves up for victimization.
For example, in my work with a rape victim I assessed whether the client could have done something differently to prevent this. If not, then the client may have been a true victim of circumstance.

I have created a diagram of four quadrants showing how certain outcomes can be determined by chance and circumstance: (1) Being at the right place, right time; (2) being at the right place, wrong time; (3) being at the wrong place, right time; and (4) being at the wrong place, wrong time. At a three dimensional level, for each quadrant we can add interaction with a “right” or “wrong” person(s).

**Chance and risk**

Much of the research on risk perception is outside the field of TA (Kahneman & Tversky, 2000). Yet, how clients cope with chance encounters and events is related to how much risk they perceive in their lives. Different ways of coping with chance define different personality adaptations.

In this brief synopsis, I’ll mention only a few. The anxious client is risk-aversive, saddled with many “What ifs.” The depressed client believes he/she has little chance of positive outcomes, weighed down with “If only’s.” Antisocial clients take reckless chances with their lives, “pushing their luck” without regard to consequences. The gambling addict is addicted to chance, compulsively chasing after luck until his/her money runs out.

In our process of intervention, the operation of chance actually plays a significant role, from contract to the point of closure. Even before the contract phase, a person entering therapy is taking a chance without knowing the outcome. At the contract level, in asking clients what they want to change, they may perceive different odds of getting what they want.

Compared to a privileged client a disadvantaged one may perceive little likelihood of getting what he/she wants and wonder, “Can I really want something that is unlikely to happen?”

Therapy becomes a way of giving people a chance to get what they want. Once they have this hope, the next step is helping them break through impasses in a safe environment until they have developed the courage to risk change.

*This is a brief synopsis of a paper I presented at the 2009 ITAA/ALAT conference in Lima, Peru.*

**References**


**NEW ORLEANS CONFERENCE MEMORIES**

*by Janice Dowson*

This column originally appeared as part of the TA Internet "Forum" dialogue moderated by Jon Wagner. At Dianne Maki’s suggestion, I have summarized my forum comments here to remind readers of this important conference and to share my experience with those who were not able to attend.

For Jon and all the folks who could not join us in New Orleans, I want you to know that the conference was a very warm, interesting and exciting event. Dianne, Phyllis, Lucy, and all the organizing committee did a fantastic job. Mary Goulding was remembered, well recognized and respected as we approached the first anniversary of her passing. Her dual interests in social action and psychological change were elegantly woven throughout the conference.

Felipe Garcia and Len Campos did a fine job of emphasizing how the personal is political, as they continued to invite participants to look to our own organizations (such as ITAA and USATAA) for social change and social justice opportunities. All the while, these two presenters were urging us to examine ways in which our own organizations might miss such opportunities.

Lucy Freedman’s workshop about script redecisions in organizations presented practical tools for successful change to organizational scripts – a logical extension of Felipe and Len’s workshops. Harville Hendrix, Stephen Lankton, and Jim Allen offered valuable and potent keynote learning opportunities in very digestible ways. Marian Weisberg did an elegant workshop on scripts about money management. With her typical grace and clarity, Marian presented an elegant workshop on scripts about money management. With her typical grace and clarity, Marian presented a simple structure while evoking new thoughts and deepening awareness about money scripts among participants. Her lovely presentations about ethical use of money for social action were carefully considered, promoting the uptake of...
these permissions through modeling the ethos she prescribes.

Moniek Thunnissen from the Netherlands did a fantastic demo and presentation of a research paper using Redecision Therapy with a sometimes marginalized population: borderline personalities. Moniek's astute observations, firmness, and caring modeled the conditions that folks with this particular diagnostic configuration seem to find most conducive to healing. She demonstrated the importance of solid contracts and group dynamics. Exquisite!

These are just a few of the highlights that are floating through my memory about this wonderful conference. Doing Qigong with Nancy Porter-Steele and Curtis Steele at eight a.m. has become a conference ritual for me, as has the women's caucus. Both aid in personal connections that can sustain and rejuvenate conference participants as we spend long hours working, learning, and playing. Our trip to the Ninth Ward was memorable. (See below.)

Reconnecting with memories of the Mary Goulding Memorial Conference experience reminds me of the gratitude I feel for Janet Lee O'Connor and Del Worley, co-chairs of the program committee. I also feel gratitude for the conference organizing team for bringing together the richness of both theory and application in one conference program. Janet, Del, and other committee members such as Ravi Sethi, Phyllis Jenkins, and Dianne Maki moved unobtrusively about the conference, seamlessly attending to important details, chatting with participants, checking to see things were going smoothly, and then gracefully gliding away to the next event or person that needed their attention. From my perspective, the whole conference team worked very hard to make it possible for the presenters to shine—to maximize opportunities for participation and for paying tribute to Mary Goulding and Redecision Therapy. Thank you to "all y'all."

As I prepared to return home to Canada, packing up my sparkling purple and blue Mardi Gras beads, my appreciation swelled for the joyful spirit of the conference participants. This joyful spirit permeated my visit to "Nu Awlins." Most palpable was that my new friend and roommate, "Miss Anna" from Baton Rouge Louisiana, taught me the correct plural of "y'all" (all y'all). She used her rich and spirit-filled voice to lead our little group of four women in singing a few gospel and country songs as we waited for the streetcar after a superb dinner at one of New Orleans's finest restaurants.

The same spirit of community weaves through my memory like a thread in a tapestry beginning with the first conference I attended in Seattle in 1976, manifesting in multiple forms, and always through an interconnectedness of head and heart. I carried that joyous spirit back to Canada with me, glad to have shared time with friends, old and new. I sure did miss seeing those familiar faces I have grown accustomed to seeing at T.A. conferences and I hope to see all y'all in Montreal.

THE LOWER NINTH WARD: BLIGHT AND BIG COCKROACHES

By Janice Dowson

Last night, as I watched a Boston Legal rerun, an incredulous, confused Denny Crane asked Allen Shore if he believed that "we let those people in New Orleans die because they were poor." Allen commented that people who are neglected and ignored "get angry and strike out." This program reminded me of my visit to the Lower Ninth Ward during the Mary Goulding Memorial Redecision / TA Conference, over four years after Hurricane Katrina.

A few days ago, as I watched a Holmes on Homes rerun, one of the construction crew commented that a few years post-Katrina, “some people are still collecting government grants.” I wondered what grants he was talking about as the camera panned to a giant cockroach that sat on the timbers of the home his crew was rebuilding for one New Orleans family. (The Canadian carpentry crew were as squeamish about these super-sized southern cockroaches as I was, when I met one climbing the wall in a bar on Bourbon Street my first night there.) Holmes remarked that the giant bugs, common in the Mississippi Delta, moved in even before the home was completed.

The day after I met my first southern cockroach, I was among five people who left the TA conference, crammed into a fuel-efficient car to visit the Lower Ninth Ward located in the easternmost downriver portion of the city, geographically the largest of the 17 wards of New Orleans.

We were eager to see the reconstruction that we had heard so much about in the media; to see The Musicians' Village, the homes that Brad Pitt, Oprah Winfrey and Habitat for Humanity were said to have rebuilt.

When we reached the district we noticed many “For Sale” and “Sold” signs, and that about two thirds of the houses were still boarded up, empty, or partially demolished. There was one large bulldozer moving deconstruction debris in a field of high grass.

Carol, driving the car, noticed there were no gas stations. Someone observed that there were no corner stores. We noticed a number of FEMA trailers scattered through the district; some were parked in yards of partially renovated houses, some on empty lots. Most of these trailers looked over-used, some perched unevenly on flat tires. As we drove, we saw two young men using a small machine for...
digging out the street sewage lines. This sewer digger was in front of a house that still had spray-painted markings on its white- and green-trimmed frame siding.

Later, when I watched Spike Lee’s documentary, “When the Levees Broke: Bitter Truth About the Crimes in New Orleans,” I learned that these sprayed-on markings were made by crews that went through to tally the “material damage” of Katrina, one color representing dead men or women, one color for dead pets. A man, about 75 years old, sat in a chair in the yard of the little marked house, half-hidden by the sewer machine.

There were many churches, their windows and doors covered with plywood, no longer the community centers that they once were. I noticed that two of the dozen churches I counted appeared to be open for services. Felipe Garcia and Inger Aking noticed that there were no children or pets in the yards. I didn’t see any women either. Inger reminded us that the all the schools we passed were closed, boarded up.

A row of about twelve adjoining houses at the farthest edge of the Lower Ninth seemed like subsidized row housing. As I write this on February 19, 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) web page features an article proclaiming in its title, “HUD Katrina Accomplishments One Year Later.” This article suggests that the row houses we saw may belong to the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO). At one end of the row houses about half were covered by boards, while people seemed to be living in the houses at the other end. I wondered about why only half of them were covered by boards: was it from mold in the humid climate, the “blight” that Brad Pitt’s web page mentions[1], abandonment, or lack of HANO investment? The HUD web pages state that “HANO and HUD have identified another 1,000 units that were not materially affected by the hurricane and are working to temporarily reoccupy the vast majority of these units by the end of September 2006.”

Four years after the hurricane I wonder how much rent these folks must pay at the other end of the “materially affected” row. I wonder whether by now, over four years later, if the whole row has been “materially affected”—or if the folks living at the far end of this desolation row are being affected—psychologically, physically, emotionally, spiritually, “materially.”

When we weren’t able to find Musicians’ Village we stopped to ask directions from a group of four men standing in the front yard of a brick house that had an old FEMA trailer sitting in the driveway. The men ranged from about 30 to 70 years old— one younger, two around fifty and one older man closer to his early seventies. The younger man gave us very careful directions to Musicians’ Village from his nurturing Parent ego state. Like a patient teacher, he had us repeat the instructions then reminded us again of the crucial left turn landmark—explaining that lots of times people come back again when they forget about the landmark or they forget to turn left.

From inside the car, someone asked him about the effect of the hurricane on the Lower Ninth Ward. Then someone asked him about the after-effects of the reconstruction and the efforts of agencies such as HUD and FEMA. This patient young black man became animated, telling us to go look at the other wards and we would see the same thing we saw in the Lower Ninth. He said we should ask those folks in other wards how they are doing, then commented “it is the same all over.” He was becoming more passionate and angry as he told us that the folks in the Lower Ninth Ward had to sell their homes as they couldn’t hold on to them.

He said that homes people had lived in were bought by landlords who were charging $1,600 a month for a little house. I was astonished. People in Whistler and West Vancouver (two of the most expensive areas in British Columbia) pay that much for renting a home with an ocean view in a clean safe neighborhood with infrastructure, churches, schools, gas stations and supermarkets—and no giant cockroaches.

This angry young man said that “it takes four guys sharing to make the rent!” He said, “People have not come back. Folks have not been able to rebuild their houses so speculators have come in and bought them.” He went on to say, “It’s no wonder folks get mad and smash in doors and stuff gets damaged. And there is no work. They can’t pay.”

As I listened and looked into his flashing eyes, I understood what he meant. As he finished speaking, the oldest man put his head down, shaking it, saying “He’s talkin’ politics,” masking the indignities—then meeting our five pairs of eyes for a split second.

**Marie Leveau and Human Dignity**

When we finally found Musicians’ Village, a picture of Marie Leveau (a woman I recognized from an old blues song about “The supreme queen of Voodoo”) gazed out on the whole Lower Ninth, guarding the community with her voodoo spirit and symbols.

Returning to our hotel, we told the bright young black woman at the front desk about our excursion to the Lower Ninth, that we noticed the schools and churches were boarded up, that there were still the death count markings on some of the houses, and that there were no children or women or pets in the yards. She told us that her own home was flooded during Katrina. In order to make her insurance claim, the insurance company argued that she could have wind damage, which was not covered in her policy, instead of water damage.

The insurance company insisted that she provide pictures from inside her house to support her claim as evidence that the cause was water damage. She said she was not able to go inside her sewage-flooded home to get such
photos within the requisite time-frame to prove her claim, since the sewage-water was "deep, half-way to the ceiling." She said that she lost her home.

Our eyes met, and for the second time that day I think I understood that the preservation of human dignity is precious, and that so much remains buried in our untold stories. I wondered how folks who were less articulate, less educated and less tolerant of frustration than this young woman, could manage to make successful insurance claims in the face of such bureaucratic buck-passing. She shook her head, then explained that most of the post-Katrina “work was left up to the loving hearts and hands and spirits of the people of the community helping and supporting one another” to get through.

Notes
[1] You can read more about the reconstruction and the experiences of people living in the Lower Ninth including the blight at http://www.makeitrightnola.org

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

USATAA invites nominations for the M&M award and two new awards: the Felipe N. Garcia History Award and the John H. Gladfelter Life Values Award. Please send nominations to Chuck Holland, chair of the USATAA Recognition Committee. The other members of the committee are Bob Avary, Jane Hardwick, Morris Haimowitz, SJ Mackenzie, Dianne Maki, and Jim Wrightsman.