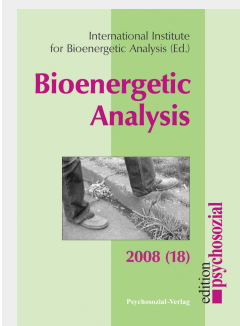


*Vincentia Schroeter*

## Letter From the Editor



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## Letter from the Editor

You hold in your hands the 18<sup>th</sup> volume of the Clinical Journal of the International Institute for Bioenergetic Analysis. This issue represents current contributions in thinking emerging from the IIBA conference in Seville, Spain, which took place in May, 2007.

The trip to Spain was enriching both professionally and personally for me. Traveling for the first time from the USA to Spain I wanted to see if I could find any Spanish relatives from my mother's side of the family. Armed only with some 30 year old photos, two names of cousins, and knowledge that they had owned a bakery, my husband and I rented a car in Salamanca and drove to Peneranda Brocamonte. Behind that small town we found the little village of Mancera de Abajo, the birthplace of my grandparents, Mariano and Ceferina Sanchez. My mother had died a year before and I felt sadness and excitement stepping onto the earth where her grandfather herded sheep and her parents met and married. We parked right in front of the small town plaza where I had heard stories of my grandparents flirting over a hundred years ago. I had my husband take the photo of my first step onto this plaza, which appears on the cover of this issue. Later I did find cousins running a bakery. We shared stories and they enthusiastically welcomed us into their homes for a day of sharing and eating.

In Bioenergetics we speak much about grounding, the great concept introduced by our founder Alexander Lowen. That day, when I stepped onto the pebbles of that plaza, I found my Spanish roots, and as I walked around slowly, I felt grounded in the history of my heritage. Large raindrops slowly began to drop as we drove away that afternoon, joining with my tears of gratitude for such a moving experience. I called my Aunt in California, who was thrilled

to hear I had found the town. It was she who had said, “If you ever find the village, please bring me back a pebble from that fine earth.” I had a bag full of pebbles and joy in my heart, mixed with tears of missing Mom and at the same time feeling closer to her and fulfilled for finding my roots.

After our satisfying find of the hometown we traveled to Seville to join colleagues in a stimulating conference with a theme of addressing the place of Bioenergetics in today’s world. Each day a keynote address reflected one of the themes. An emphasis on providing Bioenergetics to help the poor in social programs was illustrated by the Brazilian community, who inspired us to follow their lead by creating similar programs in our own countries.

In this volume we have four of the keynote addresses, one paper from a workshop, and two book reviews.

Guy Tonella created an ambitious project elaborating the development of new paradigms in psychotherapy, placing Bioenergetics within a larger context historically and theoretically. Guy’s contribution here is part of an upcoming book he is writing. He also wants readers to know that his paper can be ordered directly from him in Spanish or French. All papers will be available in Portuguese, as the entire volume will be translated from English to Portuguese by one of our hardworking editors, Mae Nascimento.

Garry Cockburn, with great respect for the legacy of Al Lowen uses contributions from philosophy to imagine an updated view of Bioenergetics without losing the value of the old concepts.

Angela Klopstech’s keynote was an impassioned call for Bioenergetic therapists to use the language of modern psychotherapy and neuroscience to update our terms as a way of bringing Bioenergetics to other schools of psychology, and bringing them to us with a common way of speaking.

Ben Shapiro shares the highly creative development of a new technique he presented at the conference in a workshop. He generously provides the details and visuals of his “curling” technique, which is part of what he will include in a series of workbooks he is developing.

Scott Baum provides a paper from his keynote on the often understudied topic of the affect of fathers, in a style that is strongly argued, bravely personal, unique and stimulating.

Both Angela Klopstech and I are including book reviews in this volume. The book she reviews is only available in German, and the one I review is available in English.

I am including some business related to a previous journal, where Diana Guest has a comment about her paper published in volume 16:

“I would like to make a belated acknowledgment of Paul Sussman, Ph.D. He and I were inspired by Bioenergetics and the writings of Jack Morin. We co-created a workshop and presented it at the Southern California Bioenergetics Conference in Feb. 2003. From there I went on to create and present an expanded version of our workshop at the Cape Cod IIBA conference in 2005 and write an article for the IIBA Journal that was published in 2006, “Bioenergetics and a Paradoxical View of Sexuality: how characterological development is related to current erotic life!” I regret that in that article I failed to acknowledge Paul’s valuable contribution to that workshop we developed together which became the seed of my article that was published three years later. Thank you Paul. At this time I would also like to express my appreciation to all those who gave me support in a variety of ways. Thank you. Diana Guest”

I hope you all enjoy these stimulating articles. As for my first time sitting in the chief editor seat, I can say it has been a challenging task and a stimulating learning experience to create this journal, which I could not have completed without the steadfast mentoring of the previous chief editor, Margit Koemeda. I want to thank both her and Mae Nasciemento for being editors again with me. I also want to thank Helen Resneck-Sannes, who along with the three of us, gave of her time as a reviewer. Lastly I want to thank the authors who are providing us with the products of their creative ideas put down in a form for us to thoughtfully savor and enjoy.

Happy Reading!

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Encinitas, California, USA  
November 7, 2007