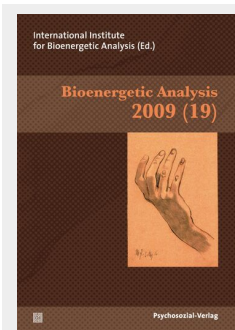


*Vincentia Schroeter*

## Memorial Note



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## Memorial Note

### On the passing away of Alexander Lowen

November 9, 2008

I am writing this a week after hearing that our founder, Alexander Lowen, died on Tuesday, October 28, 2008. The first thing on my mind is to offer condolences to his son Fred and the Lowen family for their personal loss. Next is to join with you in acknowledging the incredible gifts that he gave to all of us. Where were you when you heard of Al's passing and what passed through your mind? I had this image of a road that took a dramatic turn as a result of bioenergetics, permanently changing the trajectory of my life. Where do you think you would be had you never heard of him?

How did his ideas, his philosophy of health being grounded in the energized alive body affect your life and those you came to counsel? Whether you were part of the first wave of bioenergetic therapists in the 1950' and 1960's when Lowen was carving his own unique stone from the inspiring influence of Wilhelm Reich, or are part of a current twenty-first century IIBA affiliated certification program in the many bioenergetic training programs around the world, you have inherited his legacy. He understood the psychology of the body with a depth no other body psychotherapist ever has. He taught us how to understand and read character in chronic tension patterns and the polarities we struggle with and gave us practical exercises and techniques to loosen the bonds of our suffering. No matter how the winds blew making bioenergetics wax and wane in popularity over fifty years, his adamant belief in the ultimate truth in returning to the life of

the body never faltered. Although some of us may have become enamored of other theories or used new developments in, for example, neuroscience, trauma, and attachment theory to enrich our work with clients, we hold the secrets to Lowen's adamant belief and we know their power and beauty.

Thank you, Dr. Lowen, for the gift of your passion, your unwavering belief in the power of the body, putting your heart and soul into creating bioenergetics, and sharing it all with us. As we let you go with sadness and gratitude, know that we will carry your love and passion for bioenergetics inside us personally and will continue to share it outside us to the benefit of future generations.

Vincentia Schroeter, PhD  
Chief Editor,  
IIBA journal,  
November 9, 2008