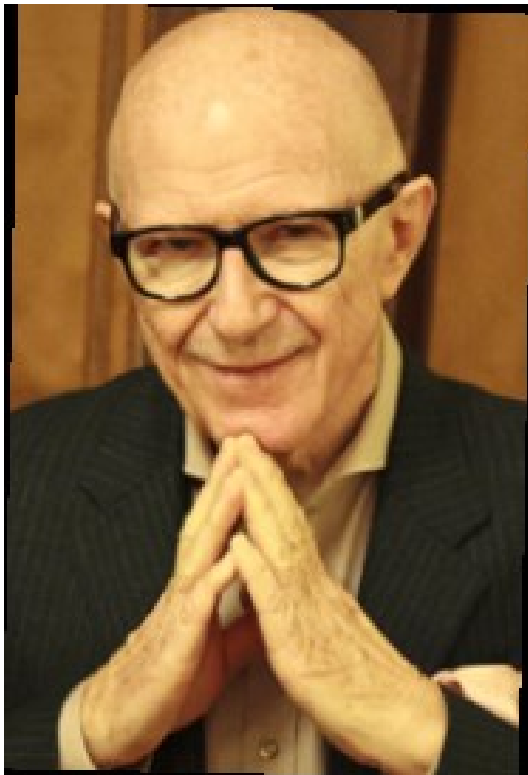


Graham Barnes - An Obituary – August 2020

Julie Hay



Graham Barnes

I was very sad to learn that Graham Barnes died from a heart attack on 9 August 2020 at his home in Stockholm, Sweden, at the age of 83. Graham contributed much to TA and he knew that I used his material extensively in my own teaching.

Graham was given the Eric Berne Memorial Award in 2005 for his article on 'Homosexuality in the First Three Decades of Transactional Analysis' (Barnes, 2004).

He was also one of the trainers in Raleigh, USA who contributed to the Social Action TA 101 project that ITAA and USATAA were offering free access to - see <https://www.usataa.org/circles-of-interest/social-justice-circle/project-ta-101/>

Those who are familiar with my material will know that I quote extensively from his 1977 book *TA after Eric Berne*, as well as using his ideas about the drama diamond (Barnes, 1981). This is such a helpful way of understanding how life positions may show up as existential positions (attitudes) as Berne (1962) originally described them, or as behaviours, as Ernst (1971) showed, or as psychological level or emotional responses - which means that we may experience all three of the not-OK versions at the same time.

Having spent many years combating intolerance, Graham was very supportive when I challenged some TA colleagues about what I thought was an abusive way to apply TA theory to refugees. Because he was a 'famous' TA person, his support of me - and the refugees - was particularly powerful and welcomed.

His legacy will live on through his material within the TA community.

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