

**Beatrice Birch** is the founder of Inner Fire Inc. a not for profit, proactive healing community offering a choice for people to recover from debilitating and traumatic life challenges without the use of psychotropic medications. She worked for over thirty years as a Hauschka Artistic therapist in integrative clinics and inspiring initiatives in the UK, Holland and the USA where the whole human being of body, soul and spirit was recognized and respected in their healing process. She has lectured and taught as far afield as Taiwan. Her passionate belief in both the creative spirit within everyone and the importance of choice, along with her love and interest in the human being has taken her also into prisons where she has volunteered for many years offering soul support through the Alternatives to Violence Project work, writing workshops and watercolor painting. Plans are to start building the home of Inner Fire, in Brookline, Vermont in the near future. For more information: [Beatrice@innerfire.us](mailto:Beatrice@innerfire.us)/[www.innerfire.us](http://www.innerfire.us)

**Susan Budnick**, born in Montreal Canada, trained at the Arbours Association in London, England, an offshoot of Kingsley Hall that was founded by two psychiatrists who worked closely with Laing, Joe Berke and Morty Schatzman. She is the author of several papers including, "A Mad Tea Party", which reflects some of her experiences in Arbours. Susan is currently collaborating on a paper with French psychiatrist, Dr. Michel Mennesson entitled, "Freeing the Mind," in which their mutual patient recounts her experience emerging from a psychotic breakdown. Susan is a regular contributor to the Connecticut Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology's newsletter and recently chaired a series of conferences with Dr. Virginia Goldner, Susie Orbach, and Jackie Gerrard. She lives in Litchfield, CT where she is a Licensed Psychoanalyst.

**Fritjof Capra, PhD**, is a physicist and systems theorist, a founding director of the Center for Eco-literacy in Berkeley, CA, and on the faculty of the Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Capra is the author of several international bestsellers, including *The Tao of Physics* (1975), *The Web of Life* (1996), *The Hidden Connections* (2002), and *The Science of Leonardo* (2007). He is currently working on a multidisciplinary textbook, *The Systems View of Life*, coauthored with Pier Luigi Luisi, to be published by Cambridge University Press. He lives in Berkeley, CA.

**Michael Cornwall, PhD, LMFT** has done therapy with people in extreme states since 1980 in medication-free sanctuaries and community settings. He completed his doctoral research on the Jungian sanctuary, *Diabasis*, and leads Esalen workshops and conferences on extreme states. He writes blogs on [www.madinamerica.com](http://www.madinamerica.com).

**Nita Gage, DSPS**, trained with R.D. Laing and his associates at the Philadelphia Association from 1974-1980. She left London and returned to America in 1980 and pursued post-graduate education in psychology and psycho-spiritual studies. She trained and studied with shamanic teachers and specializes in integrative psycho spiritual healing. Nita is co-founder of the NeuroImaginal™ Institute, [www.neuroimaginalinstitute.com](http://www.neuroimaginalinstitute.com); Director of Healer Within Retreats, [www.healerwithintreatments.com](http://www.healerwithintreatments.com), teaching medical and addiction professionals NeuroImaginal Practices for health and well being. She is the author of *The Women in Storage Club, How to Reimagine Your Life*, a book that addresses self-awareness and resiliency through NeuroImaginal practices. She lives in Cambridge, England and Marin County, CA.

**Steven Gans, PhD**, is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the American Public University and is in private psychotherapy practice at the Center for Relational Psychotherapy in Phoenix, AZ. He worked closely with Laing for many years at the Philadelphia Association and taught in the psychotherapy training program. Dr. Gans is the co-author, with Leon Redler, of *Just Listening: Ethics and Therapy* (2001). He lives in Scottsdale, AZ.

**Will Hall, MA, Dipl.PW**, works as a therapist, teacher and community development organizer, including Freedom Center, Portland Hearing Voices, The Icarus Project, Madness Radio, the Harm Reduction Guide to Coming off Psychiatric Drugs (translated into 10 languages), Valley Free Radio, 2 year certification in Open Dialogue with Mary Olson, Jaakko Seikkula and colleagues, more than 12 years of support group facilitation, and a private practice with individuals and families. A meditator and yoga practitioner, Will lives with altered states of consciousness, and since his teens has also been a social movement activist, including a staff person at the Resource Center for Nonviolence and the Earth Island Institute.

**Eddie Irwin**, co-editor of Akong Tulku Rinpoche's *Taming the Tiger* (Rider) and is the author of *Healing Relaxation* (Rider); both are available online. Eddie studied with R. D. Laing in India and London in the 1970s and since 1980 has worked under the guidance of Akong Tulku Rinpoche. She is currently a member of the Tara Rokpa Therapy Training faculty and practices psychotherapy in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Yana Jacobs, LMFT** is currently a Senior Program officer at the Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care, [www.mentalhealthexcellence.org](http://www.mentalhealthexcellence.org) a private community foundation with a mission to bring alternatives into the mainstream public and private sectors. She began her work at Soteria House as a staff member in the mid 70's, mentored by Loren Mosher, MD. Soteria House became her foundation as she moved into other areas of employment within the mental health field. Yana spent over 30 years working both in private practice as a therapist and in the public sector at Santa Cruz County Mental Health in California. She first worked with their crisis team and later became the Chief of Adult Outpatient/Recovery services. As an ally to people with lived experience she implemented a Peer-Run Respite House, funded by a SAMHSA Transformation Grant. Yana believes we must work both as an activist on the outside and with our allies on the inside if we are going to bring about real change.

**Douglas Kirsner, PhD**, holds a Chair in Philosophy and Psychoanalytic Studies at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of *The Schizoid World of Jean-Paul Sartre* and R. D. Laing (2003), and *Unfree Associations: Inside Psychoanalytic Institutes* (2009). He lived in one of the post-Kingsley Hall, Philadelphia Association households during the 1970s and has retained a special

research interest in Laing's work. His 1980 interview with Laing has recently been published in *The Psychoanalytic Review* (April, 2013). He lives in Melbourne.

**Chuck Knapp, MA**, was a student of Chogyam Trungpa and a graduate of Naropa University, and worked closely with Ed Podvoll, founder of Windhorse, for many years. He was a founding member and Director of Friendship House, a residential treatment home for people suffering extreme states, and co-founded Windhorse Community Services in Boulder, Colorado, where he now serves as a Co-Director. He has published extensively on his work at Windhorse and has a special interest in exploring mindfulness-based therapeutic environments for both individual and social wellbeing.

**Daniel Mackler, LCSW** is the director of four documentary films on recovery from psychosis and schizophrenia without medication, including *Open Dialogue* and *Take These Broken Wings*. Three of his films have been subtitled in upwards of twenty languages and have been screened worldwide. He is also the co-author of two books: *A Way Out of Madness: Dealing with Your Family After You Have Been Diagnosed with a Psychiatric Disorder* (co-written with Matthew Morrissey, published by IPS-US, 2010) and *Beyond Medication: Therapeutic Engagement and the Recovery from Psychosis* (Routledge, 2008). Prior to becoming a filmmaker, Daniel was a psychotherapist in New York City for ten years.

**Matthew Morrissey, LMFT**, is a psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco. He is the co-author and co-editor of *A Way Out of Madness: Dealing with Your Family After You've Been Diagnosed with a Psychiatric Disorder*. Matthew interned for two years at Burch House, a therapeutic community in New Hampshire modeled after PA households in London.

**Steve Sorkin, PhD** was actively involved with R. D. Laing and the Philadelphia Association for several years in the 1970s and continues to remain an associate member there. Dr. Sorkin is a licensed clinical psychologist and has provided clinical services in traditional and alternative settings. He has held faculty positions at George Washington University and the American School of Professional Psychology and a variety of administrative roles, including President of Argosy University/Washington, DC, Dean of The Chicago School of Professional Psychology/Washington, DC, and Associate Executive Director of the American Psychological Association. He consults to graduate education institutions and serves on several boards, including the Executive Committee of the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis at George Washington University, and Free Association, Inc., in San Francisco.

**William Stranger** is the founder and editor of DharmaCafé Books and [www.dharma-cafe.com](http://www.dharma-cafe.com), an online magazine. He is also the co-founder of the Calistoga Institute, a California based policy institute dedicated to fostering optimal well-being, cultural regeneration, and inherent unity in the Napa Valley community. A disciple of Adi Da Samraj since 1973, William's background in the history of consciousness, classical spirituality, transpersonal psychology, and post-Cartesian political, scientific, artistic, cultural paradigms, along with his work as peace activist, lecturer, author, literary agent, and publisher, gives him a broad knowledge of today's nascent cultural renaissance.

**Michael Guy Thompson, PhD**, received his psychoanalytic training from R. D. Laing, with whom he was in supervision, and Hugh Crawford at the Philadelphia Association in London, and served as the organization's administrator from 1973 to 1980. He is Personal and Supervising Analyst and Faculty Member, Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California, San Francisco, and Adjunct Professor at the California School of Professional Psychology and the California Institute of Integral Studies, both in San Francisco. He is the author of more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and reviews, as well as five books, *The Death of Desire: A Study in Psychopathology* (1985), *The Truth About Freud's Technique: The Encounter with the Real* (1994), and *The Ethic of Honesty: The Fundamental Rule of Psychoanalysis* (2004), *The Legacy of R. D. Laing: An Appraisal of His Contemporary Relevance* (2015), and the soon to be released, *The Death of Desire: An Existential Study in Sanity and Madness* (in press), a completely revised and expanded edition of his first book, published by Routledge. He lives in San Rafael, CA.

**Stephen Ticktin, MD** is a Canadian psychiatrist and psychotherapist. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1973 and then spent a year in London, England, as personal assistant to David Cooper. He subsequently studied with the Philadelphia Association from 1978-1984. While in London he helped found the *British Network of Alternatives to Psychiatry* and the *Supportive Psychotherapy Association*. He has been a visiting lecturer at Regent's College School of Psychotherapy and Counseling and was also involved with the New School of Psychotherapy under the direction of Emmy van Deurzen. In 2004 he returned to his native Toronto where he currently lives and works as a GP-Psychotherapist. He is also an amusing story-teller and song writer.

**Scott Von, MD** is a physician, psychoanalyst and Director of the *New Clinic* ([newclinic.org](http://newclinic.org)) in New York where he has developed the practice of Integral Medicine & Psychiatry. He received a Doctorate of Medicine specializing in integrative medicine and psychiatry, and worked with R. D. Laing and Felix Guattari's anti-psychiatry circles while completing his PhD in Psychoanalysis at the University of London. He has taught on the faculty of NYU, CUNY, Pacific College, and Esalen Institute, and has written several books including the forthcoming *Schizoanalysis: Chaos & Complexity in Clinical Practice*, and *Orgonomy: Integral Medicine & Psychiatry*.

**Robert Whitaker** is the author of four books, two of which tell of the history of psychiatry. His first, *Mad in America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine* and the *Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally Ill* was named by *Discover* magazine as one of the best science books of 2002. His newest book on this topic, *Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America*, won the Investigative Reporters and Editors book award for best investigative journalism in 2010. Prior to writing books, he worked as the science and medical reporter at the *Albany Times Union* newspaper in New York for a number of years.