Cover by Katie Croke

“America the Borderful: Looking Out, Seeing In”

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“Take a moment to ‘empty your cup;’ set aside the luggage of symbolism and preconception,” suggests Joseph Hutchinson, in *A Tangibly Intangible Journey: Experiential Learning via Zen Philosophy & General Semantics*. “Too often, we become victims of the language trap, where words are deemed more significant than what they represent. Learning becomes detached from meaningful experiences…” With unique hands-on learning techniques, Hutchinson’s students drop their “luggage” and find meaning in non-verbal experience.

Allen Flagg, president of the New York Society for General Semantics, has taught general semantics at Great Neck High, Queens College, IBM, the New School, and Fairfield University. But that’s only part of the picture. For more on this runner, dreamer, author, and man of many talents, see Martin H. Levinson’s *An Interview with Allen Flagg*.

Sociodrama does for groups what psychodrama does for individuals, notes Maurine Eckloff, in *Using Sociodrama to Improve Communication and Understanding*. It elicits “an improved understanding of a social situation, an increase in participants’ knowledge about their own and other people’s roles in relation to that situation, and an emotional release or catharsis as people express their feelings about the subject.”

High school teacher John Bohannon, who includes general semantics in his courses, gives us his *Introduction to Two Papers from Students at Vermont Academy*. These two intriguing papers are Annie Kasper’s *General Semantics in To Kill a Mockingbird* and Andrew Ochalek’s *Do You Know Who You Are When You Are?*
In *A General Theory of Psychological Relativity and Cognitive Evolution*, Dr. Charles E. Bailey asserts that we each control our own cognitive accuracy, using our recently-evolved frontal lobes. “Our knowledge of normal human brain functioning indicates that we have the capacity to choose how we think and what we think, and to make the best choices to obtain appropriate outcomes at a given time in order to be more adaptable.”

Martin H. Levinson recently reread *People in Quandaries: Sixty Years Later* and found “… its advice and relevance for solving personal problems still superb. I was moved by the profundity of Johnson’s thoughts, the elegance of his writing, and the excellent examples he used to illustrate the practicality of general semantics for everyday life.”

Two recent books authored by IGS members reflect more up-to-date GS influences in psychology and college-level “civic literacy.” We’re pleased to feature excerpts from Leon Pomeroy’s *The New Science of Axiological Psychology*, and Donald Lazere’s *Reading and Writing for Civic Literacy: The Critical Citizen’s Guide to Argumentative Rhetoric*.

Alone together, asserts Raymond Gozzi, Jr., ‘is not’ *Together Alone*. In the former, your togetherness with one other person means you do not feel alone, but in the latter, your sense of togetherness with an illusory crowd hides your actual isolation.

*Calling Out the Symbol Rulers*

In his December 2005 interview on National Public Radio, Lewis Lapham defends his sense of outrage from a historical perspective. He observes that “American media as a kind of great big dome placed over the U.S. and inside of the dome is mirrors. We don’t look out. We look at ourselves. But the rest of the world can see us.” This image, together with commentaries by William Catton and Leonard Ashley, provided the inspiration for Katie Croke’s cover art, “America the Borderful: *Looking Out, Seeing In*.”

A prescient 1973 analysis of how our talk about the world’s energy economy obscures our role in it, William R. Catton, Jr.’s *Extensional Orientation and the Energy Problem* has a deep message as important today as it was in those distant oil-embargo days. Will we ever start listening to it?

Illegal immigration has figured large in recent news reports, a multiordinal problem in a age of single-answer reactions. Leonard R.N. Ashley discusses why resolving this problem is *Bordering on the Impossible*. 