

THE MURRAY BOWEN ARCHIVES PROJECT

Project Update

October 2018

Vision:

Murray Bowen's archives will advance the understanding of human behavior through his theory and its integration with the natural sciences

Mission:

To obtain the ways and means to preserve and process Murray Bowen's lifetime of work at NLM, to support research using those archives, and to inform the world of this invaluable resource

Project Updates

Full Reports on the Following Pages

Williamsburg Collection

The Bowen family continues to work with the NLM to define the processing plan for the Williamsburg Collection. During 2018, family members, assisted by volunteers, completed inventorying and rehousing Murray Bowen's personal property and are in the process of cataloging Murray Bowen's library. When complete, the catalog will become much like the list of Thomas Jefferson's library, a permanent record that chronicles the growth of Bowen's theory.

Website

In 2016, TMBAP's website underwent a significant upgrade. This effort added content to the website including letters, photographs, and information about the archives and about Murray Bowen, MD. An exciting addition to the website is the book edited by Clarence Boyd, comprising a collection of letters written by Dr. Bowen to other professionals, family, friends, patients, and their families.

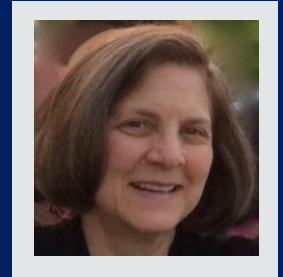
Oral History

Board Member, Catherine Rakow has been an integral part of the Oral History Committee and has played an important role in the editing and publishing of them on the website. As she resigns from the tasks she has performed, she and Andrea Schara, Chair of the Oral History Committee, each chronicle the important work of the Oral Histories.

Webinar

TMBAP is sponsoring a fundraising webinar that will feature John Engels of Leadership Coaching Inc. The webcast entitled "Relationship Connection and Leadership" will summarize connection-related research from the hard sciences and materials from Bowen's archives as well as John's own experience with organizational leaders. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Murray Bowen Archives Project (TMBAP).

A Letter from the President



Judith Ball

2018 has been an important year for The Murray Bowen Archives Project. Accomplishments include the refinement of its vision and mission, development of a strategic plan, and a three-day board retreat with one day spent at the National Library of Medicine. In addition, progress continues on: identifying ways to insure the preservation and availability of the audio-visual materials currently at the National Library of Medicine, planning for the second phase of the processing of the Williamsburg Collection prior to its transfer to NLM, and continuing to develop TMBAP's website featuring Oral Histories, video tapes of Dr. Bowen, and other Bowen Archives materials.

All this is being done by volunteers from TMBAP's Board and others whose commitment to the archives is making this progress possible.

The information on the projects below is prepared by the volunteers who are leading these efforts. Kimberly Capehart provides administrative and program assistance.

TMBAP thanks and is grateful for the involvement and contributions of all its volunteers, staff, and donors, current and past.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

The Murray Bowen Archives Project develops with your continued support.

Major projects are undertaken to make the archives available with its many resources of videos, letters, and written materials.

Please donate to keep the work going.

Donate online at:
murraybowenarchives.org
Under "SUPPORT"

Or mail a check payable to "The Murray Bowen Archives Project" to:

William K. Dwyer, MD, FACS
301 Belvoir Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37411

TMBAP DEVELOPMENTS

Full Reports on the Following Pages

Strategic Planning

A TMBAP Strategic Plan for 2018 and 2019 was developed this past year. The strategic plan covers areas such as governance, fundraising, the Video Project, the Oral History Project, the Williamsburg Collection, NLM Paper Collection, NLM Video Collection, external accessions, the Website Project, Educational/Publication Project, The Murray Bowen Biography Project, and the Wikipedia Update Project.

Board Retreat

TMBAP held its first 3-day retreat June 22 – 24th, 2018. The retreat was held in Washington, DC and began with a day at the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The discussion with NLM gave the Board an appreciation for the issues that a collection like the Murray Bowen collection presents for archiving.



Murray Bowen, MD

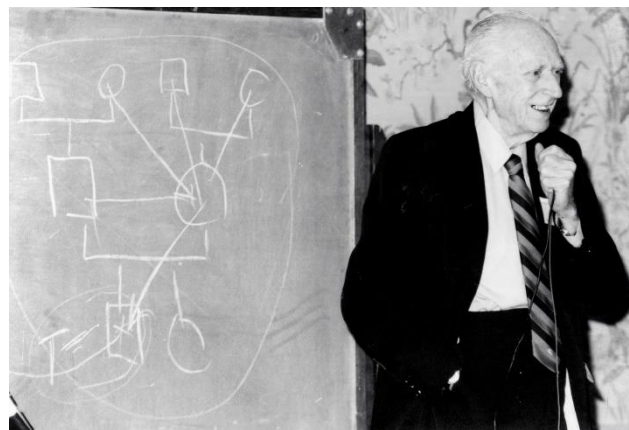
Year: 1979

Photographer: Andrea Schara

Murray Bowen, MD

Year: 1980

Photographer: Andrea Schara



The Williamsburg Collection

The Bowen family continues to work with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to define the processing plan for the Williamsburg Collection. During 2018, family members, assisted by volunteers, completed inventorying and rehousing Murray Bowen's personal property. They photographed each object, gave each a catalog number, developed an excel program and entered data, including object description, date made, and condition. In addition, Dr. Joanne Bowen, worked with volunteers to record books in Murray Bowen's personal library. She, with volunteer assistance, developed a metadata system to record titles, publication dates, publishers, inscriptions, and notes left in books. When completed, it will become, much like the list of Thomas Jefferson's library, a permanent record that chronicles the growth of Bowen's theory. This database will serve several purposes. First, a list from which NLM will be able to select books for accession, and second, a digital record of Murray Bowen's library of books that date from as early as the late nineteenth-century until his death in 1990. Working with Rebecca Warlow, NLM's Head of Images and Archives Section, Dr. Joanne Bowen has developed and will continue to refine the processing phases with associated costs needed to prepare Murray Bowen's professional papers and family letters for their transfer to NLM, where they will join the rest of the collection.

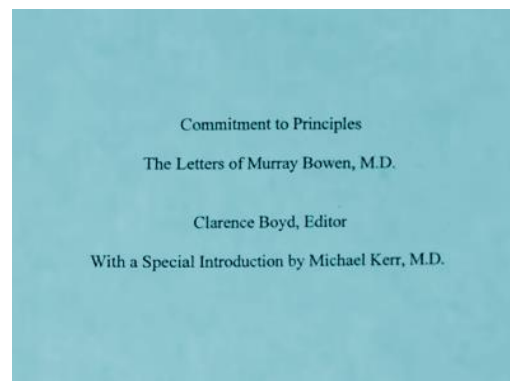
Thank You to the Bowen Family

*TMBAP thanks the Bowen Family for providing TMBAP's new logo.
The logo is Dr. Bowen's ex-libris (bookplate).*

Website

In 2016, TMBAP's website underwent a significant upgrade. This effort added content to the website including letters, photographs, and information about the archives and about Murray Bowen, MD. Visitors can explore the archives, learn about how to visit the National Library of Medicine, follow Dr. Bowen's timeline and donate to the project. Numerous photographs show Dr. Bowen, his family, friends, and colleagues as well as memorabilia from his time practicing medicine.

An exciting addition to the website is the book edited by Clarence Boyd, comprising a collection of letters written by Dr. Bowen to other professionals, family, friends, patients, and their families. Each chapter in Boyd's book is centered around a principle or theme found in the letters. Many people worked hard to make this treasure of letters available on the website. Read these letters on the website or download them to your computer. On the website click on the link, "Commitment to Principles" on the home page to find the complete set of letters.



The Oral History Project

Author | Catherine Rakow, Board Member

My journey through the archives, beginning in 1993, led to the desire to speak with others working alongside Dr. Bowen on his NIMH family study project. Those who had actually been on the scene during that exploration and development of theory. Mrs. Betty Basamania and Dr. Warren Brodey were still alive in 2002 when they came to the Western Pennsylvania Family Center in Pittsburgh for a two-day seminar on their experience on that project. Videos of those days are available at the Center and are



Featured: Betty Basamania & Warren Brodey
Year: 2002
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Photo Courtesy of Catherine Rakow

on loan at the National Library of Medicine. Soon after, Dr. Brodey and I met at The Bowen Center in Washington, DC. Our meeting centered around a review of documents in the archives that had no author, and I suspected were written by Dr. Brodey. Our discussion over those materials centered on Dr. Brodey's reflections on participating on the project and his perceptions of the families and the administration. It was recorded and is available in four segments on the website in the Oral History section. Dr. Brodey is currently living in Norway. He is available at wbrodey@gmail.com for anyone interested in learning more of his life's work.

My interest has been and remains in the possibilities offered by interviews with those professionals who were contemporaries of Dr. Bowen. Those who were either on-site as Dr. Bowen developed his theory, such as Brodey and Basamania, or those who were colleagues and can give insight to how Bowen was heard by others. Adding to the historical record on the development of theory will serve the future well.

Since 2010, I have traveled beside Andrea Schara as she developed her own ideas about how Bowen theory has changed many lives as well as how people adopted the theory, made it their own, and worked to extend the theory. I first did this as Chair of the Archives, Acquisitions, and Oral History committee working with Andrea and others to develop a manual of policies and practices for her endeavor. Katherine Kott was very helpful

in pointing to the Stanford Oral History Training Manual as an example. Ms. Schara became chair of the Oral History Project in 2013 and continued her intrepid effort to collect these oral histories. I returned to hands-on work with the oral history interviews in 2017 through August 2018. Gathering needed materials for posting the interviews offered the pleasant experience of getting to know interviewees through this process. It was a delightful experience as I became personally acquainted with many people who knew the theory, actively used it in their life, and were willing to speak to that. I gained firsthand knowledge of their strengths, their resilience, their humor, and a number of times got new ideas for my own thinking or a historical fact or two useful for my writing efforts.

The Oral History Project (cont.)

Author | Andrea Schara, Board Member

In 2011, I begin to interview people for my website who had a serious, often life changing, relationship with Dr. Bowen. I wanted to find out how Dr. Bowen impacted so many people, peaking their interest in family systems theory. What was he doing? What was so different about what he said or did that people would change, often leaving individual thinking, to move towards systems thinking.?

Others were interested in the history of how Dr. Bowen's relationships influenced people. Catherine Rakow interviewed two important people from the National Institute of Health research days. Robert Cohen and Warren Brodey. You can hear these initial oral history interviews on the website.

I suggested to the Board of The Murray Bowen Archives Project that there might be at least 60 people who could talk about how Bowen influenced them and that could increase our knowledge of the man, Murray Bowen and of the way he lived his theory. This multi-year project could attract a PhD student interested in doing research on the origins and spread of the theory.

Joanne Bowen, the first president of the TMBAP Board, thought this might be a good idea for research. She had a relationship with a PhD student, Ellen Chapman, who transcribed some of these interviews. Ani Klaus and now Kimberly Capehart transcribe the interviews. Currently over 50 interviews have been recorded and 24 of them are now on the website.

These stories enhance the understanding of the theory, showing show the ways in which Bowen's relationships with people promoted their broader interest in human behavior. Some of the interviews are with individuals who took the ideas and developed research projects. Others tested out new clinical insights and methods. There is also interest in expanding the theory towards a science of human behavior by connecting human behavior with the life processes found in other social species.

Catherine Rakow has been involved from the very beginning, organizing and editing the transcriptions of the audio interviews, obtaining publishing permission for the TMBAP website, selecting photographs, and summarizing the interviews. This year she retired from this work and will be greatly missed. If we are fortunate, she will write a book about all she has learned doing years of research and organizing boxes of Bowen's files at the National Library of Medicine. Catherine has earned my very deep gratitude for her volunteer work.

Absolutely none of this would be possible without the financial support of many people who have supported the enormous effort to bring the Murray Bowen Collections to the public. Those who support this effort know how important knowledge about the family as system is to the all of us, the world we live in, and future generations.

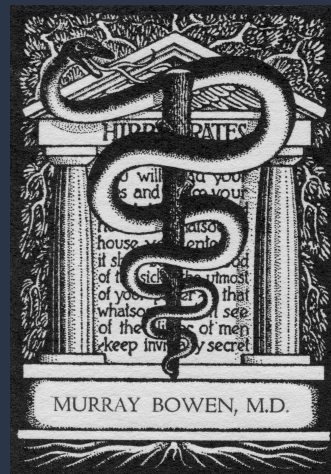
Those who know what the family emotional system is understand that bringing a different way of seeing human behavior can itself produces changes within the system. These interviews of professionals testify to the impact new knowledge has on behavior. The interviews allow you to hear people speak to the ways in which the relationship with Dr. Bowen changed their lives. Dr. Bowen had a method of interacting with people that challenged the old emotional system, allowing people to be more aware of the automatic nature of human behavior. Family systems theory is built on Bowen's years of observing families, and seeing how the system worked. These interviews reveal a great deal about how Murray Bowen "lived theory."

"Those who know what the family emotional system is understand that bringing a different way of seeing human behavior can itself produces changes within the system."

The Murray Bowen Archives Project

Relationship Connection and Leadership

A Fundraising Webinar



About the Webinar

In his writings and particularly in his lived example, the eminent psychiatrist, Murray Bowen, demonstrated the importance of maintaining connection with important others. Dr. Bowen's thinking emphasized the importance of building meaningful, one-on-one connections. Dr. Bowen also predicted the system costs of emotional fusion – intense emotional closeness that compromises functioning. His bold theory highlighted the value of emotional separateness.

Out of Dr. Bowen's work emerged what might be viewed as the "double task" of higher-functioning relationships: Build connections with important others without giving up your emotional selfhood.

The webcast on "Relationship Connection and Leadership" will discuss how emotional maturity funds healthy relationship connection within the family and workplace. The presentation will summarize connection-related research from the hard sciences and materials from Bowen's archives. John Engels will also draw from his experience as a long-time leadership thinker and coach, suggesting two skills that can assist healthy connection in families and organizations.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Murray Bowen Archives Project (TMBAP).

About TMBAP

Dr. Bowen gave his theory as a gift to the world.

The history of The Murray Bowen Archives Project is the story of making that gift a reality. Shortly before Dr. Bowen's death in 1990, it was agreed that the National Library of Medicine would serve as the repository for all of his work. Selections from these materials are now showcased on TMBAP's website. The Murray Bowen Archives Project Board of Directors is committed to the raising of funds that will ensure Dr. Bowen's life works are preserved and accessible to everyone.

Quick facts

Save the Date:
March 1, 2019

Time:
1:00pm - 3:00pm EST
(5:00pm - 7:00pm UTC)

Registration:
\$200
opens December 2018
Group pricing is available

Speaker: John Engels
leadershipcoachinginc.com



More Information:
Kent Webb, Board Member
kent@kentwebb.com

Website:
murraybowenarchives.org

Strategic Planning

A TMBAP Strategic Plan for 2018 and 2019 was developed this past year. The board committed to an organizational principle that a strategic plan would regularly guide TMBAP toward its vision and mission and would serve as a tool to routinely measure progress for the next 2 years. A subcommittee, chaired by Kent Webb with members Joanne Bowen, Pat Comella, and Andrea Schara, worked diligently for several months to develop a recommended comprehensive strategic plan that was presented to the board for discussion and finalization at the June Board Retreat in Washington, DC.

The strategic plan covers areas such as governance, fundraising, the Video Project, the Oral History Project, the Williamsburg Collection, NLM Paper Collection, NLM Video Collection, external accessions, the Website Project, the Educational/Publication Project, The Murray Bowen Biography Project, and the Wikipedia Update Project. Goals and timelines will be established for each area. The entire board experienced the process of creating and acknowledging the importance of this strategic plan as energizing. The board is eager to make significant progress toward the execution and accomplishment of its plan.

Board Retreat



From Left to Right: Steven Greenberg, National Library of Medicine; Board Members: Judith Ball, Edward Henley, Priscilla Friesen, William Dwyer, Kent Webb, Joanne Bowen, Catherine Rakow, Elizabeth Malone; Guest Linda Dwyer; Board Member Andrea Schara | *Photo Courtesy of Andrea Schara*

TMBAP held its first 3-day retreat June 22 – 24th, 2018. The retreat was held in Washington, DC and began with a day at the National Library of Medicine. While some individuals had had contact with NLM, it was the first time that the TMBAP Board experienced the library first-hand.

Our hosts were Steven Greenberg, Head of Rare Books and Early Manuscripts and Rebecca Warlow, Head of Images & Archives who is responsible for the Murray Bowen collection. Dr. Greenberg gave us the history of the National Library of Medicine as the largest and the first library of its kind in the

world. It is the repository for the world's knowledge of medicine beginning in 1862 and moving to its current location in 1961.

Murray Bowen selected the NLM as the home for his intellectual legacy before his death in 1990. His archival collection is in the company of the collections of Nobel Prize winners and other luminaries of medical science as well as his NIMH cohorts, Paul McLean and John Calhoun.



Featured from left to right: Steven Greenberg, Kent Webb, Priscilla Friesen
Location: National Library of Medicine
Photo Credit: Andrea Schara

Drs. Greenberg and Warlow talked about how archivists think. They talked about what is important in a collection and how an archivist thinks about organizing a collection. They defined principles that guided their acquisition of new materials into a collection. The discussion gave the Board an appreciation for the issues that a collection like the Murray Bowen collection presents for archiving.

Dr. Warlow took the Board on a tour of the library, including the cold storage 3 floors below the ground, where audiovisual materials are stored. We saw where the library was expanding their storage capacity for books using moving bookshelves. The expansive underground facility houses the work space for the processing of many collections, preserving books, prints, illustrations as well as a place for transcribing media materials. The library faces financial cutbacks requiring staff to do more with less.

In the temperature controlled Rare Book room, visible but locked to the public, Dr. Greenberg showed us some of the library's rarest of books. He described how books are made and the challenge to keeping them preserved.

In the afternoon, members of the Board had a hands-on experience with the collection itself. Each board member filled out the library application to research the collection clarifying a research purpose. This is the same process that anyone interested in the researching the collection would do. The collection is open to researchers who will accept the privacy policy and agree to NLM redaction guidelines of personal information.

It is important for Board members to experience the process required to access the collection. What can seem overwhelming is actually possible, and board members can genuinely encourage others to access the collection.

The personal experience with the library and with the staff helps the Board to better understand the archiving process as well as to understand both the possibilities and constraints in which the National Library of Medicine operates.



Featured: Rebecca Warlow
Location: National Library of Medicine
Photo Credit: Andrea Schara