

# *The Threshing Floor*

May 2016

**Newsletter of the Guild for Psychological Studies**

Web site: [www.guildsf.org](http://www.guildsf.org)

Phone: (415) 561-2385

P.O. Box 29385, San Francisco, California 94129-0385

e-mail: [office@guildsf.org](mailto:office@guildsf.org)

**Guild Vision:** The Guild envisions a world in which the significance of each person's truth, authority, and inspired purpose finds fulfillment in life and community.

**Guild Mission:** Guild seminars offer a way of psychological and spiritual transformation that inspires individuals to live their purpose, expand consciousness, and discover and create meaning in their lives and community.

## **Shepherding Our Mission**

*By: Elizabeth Bremer, Secretary of the Board  
(LBremer4@aol.com)*

Recently, in *The Threshing Floor*, people have written poignantly of the value Guild seminars bring to life:

“the space in which each of us finds our way to serve history,”  
“new depths and perspectives... like roots traced beneath the snow,”  
“psychological thinking,”  
to “live the questions, hold the tension, resist easy answers,”  
“tools of journaling and dialoguing and expressive art and movement to music,”  
“willingness to greet the unexpected gods not as enemies but as teachers,”  
help to “find my own voice,”  
awakening “the poet within,”  
“a continuous spiritual journey... refining a personal theology that works for me,”  
better ability “to know and act upon my longings and dig deep into my potential,”  
“close bonds with scores of people who are on similar journeys through soul work,” ...

In order to offer people the opportunity to develop and engage in this seminar work the Guild needs the energy of individuals who serve on our board of directors. How can leaders be supported and encouraged to grow and create programs? How can the Guild's programs reach new participants? How can leadership be developed for the future? How can a healthy financial basis be maintained in order

for the work to continue? These are some of the questions the board works to answer.

The Guild Board of Directors provides strategic, policy, program and operations oversight in order to further our mission and vision. We are recruiting candidates between now and mid-July in preparation for the annual election which will take place in August. We seek individuals who share a passion for the Guild's mission and a commitment to helping the organization succeed. Our organization depends upon the active participation of the Guild community in furthering our work. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact me or any Board member to talk about board work.

Currently, the board meets approximately every-other-month, on a Sunday afternoon, in the East San Francisco Bay area. Though not preferable, it is sometimes possible for members who cannot travel to a meeting to participate by conference call, and video conferencing may also be considered. Between meetings, communication is usually by group e-mail, and members contribute a few hours to projects individually or with others. The current directors are Elizabeth Bremer, Hal Childs, Denise Dinwiddie, Harry Henderson, and Jennifer Larson. We look forward to hearing from you.

## **GOLDEN YEARS**

*By Janet Boeth Jones  
on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, 2015*

### **Insomnia and me**

What is it re going to bed  
That wakes me up, I've wonder-ed.

I sit and doze, with book on lap,  
Till eyes stay closed in gentle nap.

But prepare I must, to do it right,  
Not sleep on top in jeans all night.

So toddle I to bathroom sink,  
To make me ready, or so I think.

I brush and floss and gargle and spit,  
And take a pill to keep me fit.

I wash spare parts and cleanse my skin.  
Add drops to eye and cream to shin.

Inhale a puff, and spray my nose,  
Don my jammies and rinse my hose.

Now then, say I, that surely should do it.  
But once in bed I sorely rue it.

So many tasks to prep me for slumber,

I'm now wide awake, good grief, what a  
bummer.

So out comes the book, in hopes soporific,  
But now I'm presented with crime scenes  
horrific.

When finally I slip into drowsy domain,  
I'm nudged from within – rats, my bladder  
again.

## **Boxes**

The boxes lie there, huge and square,  
On closet shelves and floor and chair.  
They're full of letters no one reads,  
And ancient photos no one needs,  
'Cuz names and dates and place are lacking,  
And no way left for careful tracking;  
Nor child, grandchild, nor other kin  
Who'll dote on every note within.  
Yet when I gird my loins to start  
To cull and trash and file and sort,  
My stomach grips and says not now,  
Maybe tomorrow will show me how.

Today I'll rest and read and look,  
Savoring the joys of window and book

### **May Birthdays**

Ruth McMullen	May 2
Rosemary Hayes	May 3
Karen Maki	May 5
Joyce Samati	May 6
Martha Ann Salt	May 8
Susan Thompson	May 8
Jon Colladay	May 9
Susan Isaac	May 14
John Lee	May 14
Hal Childs	May 17
Fred Davis	May 18
Elizabeth Naegle	May 20
Janet Boeth Jones	May 22
Nadine Hathaway	May 26
Laura. Grosvenor	May 28
Sarah Eeles	May 29

## **Bon Jour Bonnard**

*By Sue Renfrew*

Spend a day with his warmth, wit, and glorious color.

We are privileged to have an exciting exhibition of Pierre Bonnard's work rarely seen on the West Coast, but remember, it closes on May 15th, and so take yourself to the Palace of Legion of Honor either before this special day at Sue Renfrew's house or in the week that follows. She will have over twenty pictures of his paintings to enjoy there in the morning as well as discussing his place in art history, his thoughts on art, and why he is considered a major artist. Our luncheon is together, and, in the afternoon, there will be time to play with his colors, designs, and intimate scenes before we say, "Adieu."

Leader: Sue Renfrew

Cost: \$50.00 tuition plus \$15 non-refundable registration fee

Date and Time: Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 9:30 am.

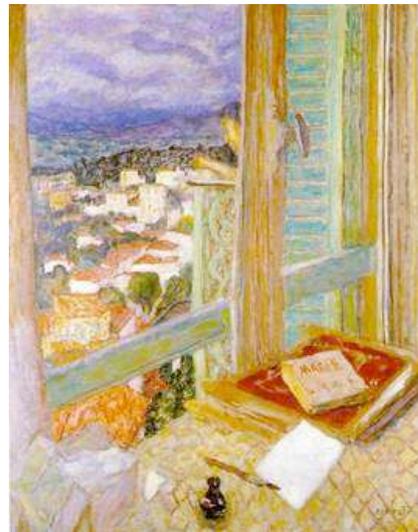
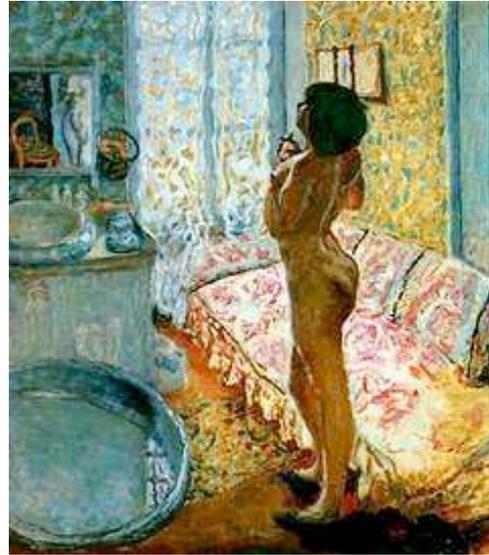
Place: Sue Renfrew's home in San Francisco

Please register through the Guild office by email, phone, regular mail, or the website:

[office@guildsf.org](mailto:office@guildsf.org)

(415) 561-2385

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## **My Friend**

*By Maureen Hartmann*

Those two words came to me  
early in a recent morn.  
To me they mean  
a benign universe,  
spring hope for a warring planet,  
God's goodness  
and grace shining on me.

## **Hidden**

*By Barbara Lyon*

Hidden, or am I?  
Despair grows  
Its shape has a sound  
Grief listens  
Moves,  
gains a rhythm  
Stirs a forgotten melody  
Defeat eases  
Uncovers  
A gentle thing

## Two Poems About my Grandparents

By George Stenger

During our "Nourishing the Soul" seminar, Nils recalled the sharing time at one of the first seminars. Each person was given about five minutes to show their artwork, read something they had written, perform a skit. In that spirit I thought I would share...

### FiveSevenFive

Five syllables strung,  
Framing seven syllables,  
To paint a picture

My grandfather Paul  
Paints seascapes, bays and rivers—  
Then he swims in them

Ducks swimming on glass,  
Quacking across lake's surface,  
Flutter quack flutter

I crank the handle—  
I'm kneading the bread for her  
She gives me a loaf

My grandmother Rose,  
Master gardener, baker—  
Tart plum tarts for us

I can smell their sweat  
They worked long, all of their lives  
This I remember

Art painted for soul  
Bread, gardening for body  
Paul A. Schmitt, Rose Bold

### Let Loose the Stars

*...always be trying to write a poem you lack the technique, the language, the courage to achieve. Otherwise you're merely imitating yourself....*

*John Berryman*

And so...

I let loose the stars and moon  
whose powers I have often used,  
unclasp the hand that holds the child's.

I let hummingbirds flash and fly away  
without comment.

Silhouettes,  
Odysseus' journey home,  
Persephone in the underworld,  
Tristan and Isolt—  
I forsake them all.

Inside myself, images, history that is only mine—

Half of how I came to be is the story of the Bolds, a German family who moved from Minnesota to establish a dairy ranch in the Fruitvale district of Oakland in the late 1800s.

Their property met Foothill Boulevard with an iron gate.

Minnesota Avenue. My grandma Rose Bold grew up there.

36th Avenue, that same street, is where I grew up.

Because I knew her, because I watched her, the garden I now have is planted from seeds she planted in me.

The frugality I now live is her frugality.

My love of raspberries, asparagus, and roses are her loves. If she were alive today I would talk to her often.

I know she would have answers for the questions that are me.





*The Guild for Psychological Studies presents:*

## **We are soul's refugees!**

**Refugee, Exile, Wanderer, Pilgrim**

**June 25-July 3, 2016**

Soul has given birth to itself in a new historical form, leaving behind mythology and religion and a cosmos populated by the great gods and goddesses. We, as humankind, are now a kind of refugee of soul's own making, forced out of our traditional home of Meaning. Now that the old Idea, once so precious, orienting and true, has become lifeless, flat and empty...what new truth is soul asking us to face today?

We did not choose to be born into this time. And yet here we are. We did not consciously choose the home of our childhood, and yet there we were. Growing up, were you ever at home at home? Are you even at home in this world, or does the feeling of not quite fitting in whisper in the background? Our body requires a concrete home with a real address, but what about soul's home? Perhaps now soul is Exile, Refugee, Wanderer and Pilgrim all at once—what is asked of us in order to live into a new truth when truth is not settled, but on the road?

Is the Wanderer at home in their wandering? If the traditional forms of Meaning have dissolved, then what is the Pilgrim seeking? What are the wounds of Exile and Refugee that need to be faced? Which of these four images resonates with you at this time of your life?

The Judeo-Christian myth, poetry, contemporary reality, soul-psychology and our deep experience will guide our exploration of what is required to be human in our time of soul as refugee, exile, wanderer, pilgrim.

The Guild's seminar method includes guided group discussion, silence, journal work, expressive arts, body awareness and movement, oriented to aid deep listening and response to what life and soul are asking of us now.

Please include a letter stating why you wish to attend and any pertinent information about prior study and experience around spiritual issues.

**Location:** Four Springs, Middletown CA

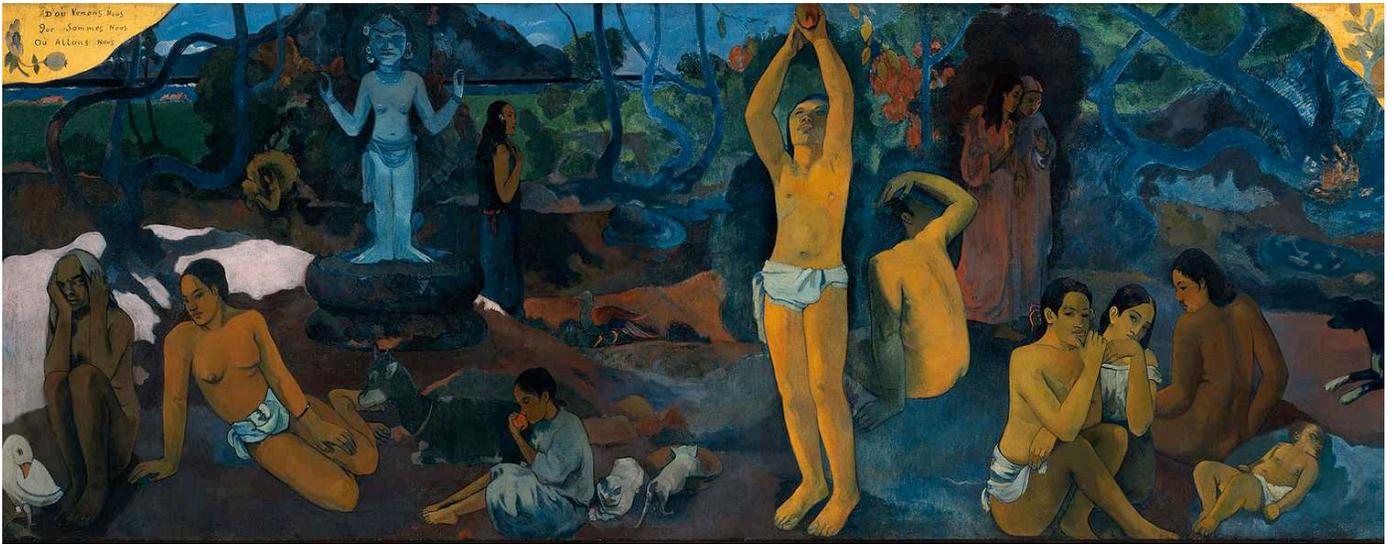
**Leaders:** Hal Childs, PhD, MFT, Patricia Calcagno Stenger, MA, MFT, and Harry Henderson

**Fees:** \$1,485 plus a non-refundable deposit of \$50 with registration. Limited scholarships and payment plans are available.

Contact for more information:

Hal Childs, 415-573-2469; [halchilds@earthlink.net](mailto:halchilds@earthlink.net)

Register at [www.guilddf.org/seminar-registration](http://www.guilddf.org/seminar-registration)



Gauguin: Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?

The Guild for Transformational Studies  
2016 Summer Guild Retreat -- July 16–24, 2016  
**Flame and Flower: Encountering the Living Questions**

Join a circle of seekers for a nine-day retreat at Shepherd's Spring in Maryland to explore your living questions and come to a fuller expression of your own truth. Questions, intensely asked and heard, can set the course of a life, drawing us from birth to birth, dissolving and transforming ourselves as the very journey of life. No matter where we are in our life's journey, at the beginning, middle or end, questions work away on us, disturbing complacency and awakening consciousness. What are the burning and urgent questions you are wrestling with? In each inviting question, what is the bud yearning to become a flower? In this seminar we will explore how to live in relation to our living questions. We will seek to know the questions that have been guiding our lives, and to discover the new questions that are emerging right now.

The seminar process uses a modified Socratic method to guide group discussion. We honor the dignity of each individual to express their truth and move at their own pace. Mutual respect will support us in our quest to discover the gifts within our depths. Our work will be enriched by the use of non-verbal approaches: meditation, expressive arts, music, body movement and awareness, drama, and silence. All applicants new to the Guild are asked to accompany their application with a letter stating why they wish to attend and any pertinent information about prior study and experience around spiritual issues.

For a registration form and additional information, please contact Susan Thompson at [susanthompson045@yahoo.com](mailto:susanthompson045@yahoo.com). We will keep the circle small, so sign up early!

Partial scholarships are available. Please apply with your request to Susan Thompson.

Date & Time: Saturday, July 16 to Sunday, July 24, 2016.  
Leaders: Hal Childs, PhD, M.Div, MFT and Patricia Stenger, MFT  
Location: Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center, Sharpsburg, MD  
Fee: \$1,800 (this includes ALL expenses for a double room, board, art materials, and leader fees for 9 days) (\$200 per day). Extra fee charged for single room.

### Stay Connected

Bob Ridder, Administrative Coordinator, is available for all inquiries by phone at (415) 561-2385, or by email at [office@guildsf.org](mailto:office@guildsf.org).

Send your email address to [office@guildsf.org](mailto:office@guildsf.org) so that we can keep you connected and up-to-date on Guild events. Also be sure that we have your current mailing address so that we are able to send you this yearly edition of the newsletter. Please keep us updated with your address changes.

### Mailing Address

Guild for Psychological Studies  
P.O. Box 29385  
San Francisco, CA 94129-0385

### Guild Website

Visit [www.guildsf.org](http://www.guildsf.org) for information about seminars and events, and to register for seminars. The website also has general information about the Guild, past issues of the Threshing Floor, relevant news, and links to resources. If you would like to post information of interest to the Guild community, please email [harryhenderson51@gmail.com](mailto:harryhenderson51@gmail.com), our web administrator.

### Guild Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/guildsf>, launched in January! If you haven't yet, please "friend" and "like" us!

### Newsletter

To receive 12 issues of *The Threshing Floor* a year, please contact the Guild office. There is no charge for an e-mail subscription. For a print subscription, please send a check for \$25 to the Guild office.

Items for inclusion in the Threshing Floor should be mailed to the Guild Office, Attn. Threshing Floor Editor, or emailed to [office@guildsf.org](mailto:office@guildsf.org). The deadline for each issue is the 20th of the month. Items received after that date will be published the following month.

Production & Layout Editor: Wilene Chang  
Content Editors: Janet Boeth Jones, Sue Renfrew  
Distribution: Bob Ridder

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter (by contributors other than staff and directors) are the writers' and not necessarily an official position of the Guild.

### Publishing House sales – books and CDs

Order publications on the Guild website, or contact Carina Ravelly at [guildpublishing@yahoo.com](mailto:guildpublishing@yahoo.com).

### Donations

Many thanks to our donors! Your financial support in any amount helps the Guild with seminars and other events, with the training of leaders, with outreach, and with other new and ongoing efforts. Because the Guild is a registered nonprofit organization, with 501(c)(3) status, your contribution may be tax deductible. Donations should be directed to the Guild office address, or you may donate online using the PayPal link you'll find by selecting the Make a Donation link on the main page of our website.

### Volunteers

There are several people who fill necessary volunteer roles in the Guild. If you would like to be a Guild volunteer, please contact the Guild office at [office@guildsf.org](mailto:office@guildsf.org) and let us know particular volunteer roles that appeal to you. Currently volunteers are members of the editorial staff for the Threshing Floor; members of the Board of Directors; serve as continuing education coordinator; train to serve as seminar coordinator, committee person or cook; provide transportation to/from seminars for attendees; help to catalog or research Guild archive materials; write reviews for Guild books and other publications; etc.

### Friends and Members

Friends of the Guild are donors and others interested in receiving Guild information who are not Voting Members. Voting membership requires active participation in some form of leadership or committee role, or other volunteer effort, and the payment of annual dues. Voting members may receive a print subscription to the Threshing Floor upon request.

### Board of Directors

Elizabeth Bremer, Secretary  
Hal Childs, President  
Harry Henderson, Treasurer  
Denise Dinwiddie  
Jennifer Larson, Vice President

