

# The Threshing Floor

March 2015

Newsletter of the Guild for Psychological Studies

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**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.

## President's Question

Are we doing it right? During long seminars we often stop and ask this question. While there are no "right or wrong" answers, it helps us feel our way, it helps us seek the resonance between heart, head, body and soul that supports our journey and leads the way. While the Guild asks this question of itself, you too can stop and ask, "Am I doing it right? Am I living in accordance with the truth of my being at this moment of my life?" The truth that is required of us changes, and such is the transformational journey the Guild's work nurtures.

Seminars throughout the past year have helped us look deeply into such questions. We explored the mystery of "Wound and Healing, Consciousness and Love" at Four Springs, and encountered the "Gifts of the Shadow" in Washington DC, last summer. December found us turned toward "In the Bleak Midwinter" as we sought the particular truth of darkness in our life. "Art as Elixir" and "Art Walk with Georgia O'Keefe" opened doors to truth as art, another way in which soul as process meets and inspires us. The annual retreat, "Nourishing the Soul," continued its exploration of the play of soul in art, literature and music. Other events that supported the journey included the regular meetings of Casting Seeds and the journey to Berlin for leadership development (both are noted elsewhere in this issue). Thought and deep reflective thinking is another way soul works on itself, and the recent "Report from Berlin 2014" event brought insights into the process of *psychology* working on itself as a form of soul's thinking.

Ongoing and deepening collaboration with Four Springs continues. We participated in the dedication of the new lodge last May, and loaned Four Springs \$125,000 dollars to support completion of the construction. We also entered into a joint project to develop a Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP). The plan includes a yearlong study of the land owned by the Guild and Four Springs to assess timber resources, plant species, and matters of timber management, water quality and endangered species, including the presence

of any historic and pre-historic sites, all in accordance with several California state laws. The plan will project timber growth forty-five years into the future and enable us to undertake intelligent timber harvesting that will improve the overall health of the forest and reduce the risk of forest fires. We are excited to be able to bring more consciousness to the land and enhance this resource that has been, and continues to be, so nourishing to soul work. If you have questions about the NTMP please contact the office.

Are we doing it right? I hope we are doing it right enough. The Board's members continue to ask this question as we look ahead into the future. Do you think the Guild is "doing it right"? You can send your comments and questions for inclusion in future issues of the Threshing Floor.

*Hal Childs*

## Threshing Floor Special Issue

As we did with the March 2014 issue, this month's newsletter is being mailed to the Guild's full mailing list. We are taking this opportunity to connect with those who don't regularly receive the Threshing Floor.

The newsletter may share information about upcoming events, reflections on recent Guild events, short essays exploring new ideas, as well as poetry, stories, photos, and acknowledgements. You can submit an item for an upcoming issue by sending it to the Guild office.

The Threshing Floor's volunteer editors work creatively to include as many contributions as possible each month. For this issue, the Guild Board of Directors asked for contributions that would provide updates on activities around the country that we hope are of interest to you. In addition, we are introducing a topic to which we invite your reflection and response (article at end of page 3). If you know of others who might be interested in what the Guild's work offers, please share this TF with them.

*The Board of Directors*

## Upcoming Seminars

For additional information and to register, please visit the Guild's web site at [www.guildsf.org](http://www.guildsf.org), or contact the Guild office. Limited scholarships and payment plans are available for all seminars. The non-refundable registration fee is required at the time of registration.

### Living in the Future

**March 8 and 22, 9:30am-4:30pm**

We *already live in the future*. There has never been a time like this in world history. Smart phones that advise us, 3D printers, Google glasses, drones, robots—and soon, self-driving cars. Our institutions, social conventions, and even our language struggle to keep up with the pace of technological change. Meanwhile, money flows in invisible rivers and seemingly vanishes into thin air. The very basis of our economy is shifting like an earthquake fault. What does it all mean? How does it affect us? Do we even have a future?

Responses born of fear or blind optimism cannot help us. Only by finding a new consciousness can we respond creatively to change that comes on such a scale, and at such a pace. In our work together we will choose to meet the future as a “portentous guest” (Jung). We will explore what happens when we invite this guest into our reflection.

Beginning with our personal experience and ideas about the future, we will use discussion, art, movement and dialog to allow the characteristic phenomena of our time to have their own voice. Through engaging with these voices, we will search out a creative attitude that can carry the future into our daily lives.

**Location:** San Francisco, CA

**Leaders:** Harry Henderson and Jennifer Larson

**Fee:** \$100, plus non-refundable \$15 registration fee.

### Nourishing the Soul XX

**April 13, 5:30pm-April 16, 1:00pm**

This year's Nourishing the Soul will talk about story, the ones we're told and the ones we tell. It will be wide-ranging, from myth to Shakespeare, from Homer to Barthelme, from fairy tales to urban legend. We think storytelling is the most human of activities. It helps make us who we are, tells us where we are, and gives us some sense of where we want to be. Each night the dreamer visits us with his wild tales. All our stories are, in a way, a way of catching up.

Art, poetry and music will be brought along with story as we set about these days of “nourishing the soul”.

**Location:** Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg, CA

**Leaders:** Nils Peterson, PhD, Maureen Draper, MA and Sue Renfrew, MA.

**Fee:** \$600, plus non-refundable \$50 registration fee.

## The Inevitable Gravity of Beautiful Trouble

**July 11, 11:00am-July 19, 1:00pm**

Is it dangerous and foolhardy to offer a seminar on trouble? Should we beware of what will be stirred up? Who wakes up in the morning assuming trouble is something to look forward to?

We buy insurance; we make plans for disasters; we anticipate worst case scenarios; we learn to put on character armor as children to cope with troubling parents; we become vigilant for psychological trouble. The natural attitude is to keep trouble away.

Still, we must ask: What is the unknown presence that troubles us? What does trouble want? What does trouble need from us?

For Jesus the kingdom of God is trouble. For Jung the individuation impulse is trouble. Yet both these paths are a way to authenticity, to consciousness, to deep beauty.

“Let him who seeks, not cease seeking until he finds,  
and when he finds, he will be troubled,  
and when he has been troubled, he will marvel and he  
will reign over the All”

—*Gospel of Thomas*, logia 2

The shadow troubles our self-image, and the trickster troubles our best-laid plans. It is said the truth will set you free, but first it will trouble you profoundly. We sleep and our sleep is troubled by dreams. We have a choice: either to be victims of trouble, or to face the challenge of trouble. How might trouble lead us to Beauty and open us to truth?

In this seminar we will seek to face the inevitable gravity of *trouble*, to learn its inner necessity and to know its hidden secrets for making what is beautiful of soul manifest. The wisdom of Jesus, the Greek myth of Odysseus, the soul-centered psychology of Wolfgang Giegerich, and most especially our personal experience will guide our exploration.

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. We utilize meditation, expressive arts, music, body movement and awareness, and silence to deepen our work.

This seminar meets the qualifications for 30 hours of continuing education credit for MFTs, LPCCs, LEPs, and/or LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Approved provider #PCE 1829. Please include an additional \$15 for the CEU certificate. Please refer to the website for learning objectives.

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

**Fee:** \$1,485, plus non-refundable \$50 registration fee.

## **“Art” - The Extraordinary Everyday**

It may be the way light falls on the small table and its objects, or the colors of edibles arranged on a plate. Patches of shapes and colors unfocused in the distance; the sound of voices, creatures, or of living activities. A page crumpled or torn, the broken cup, the digging that had to go deep into earth... One may alert us, evoke a surprisingly honest response, and break open new reflection for ourselves, for our world. We may encounter such images on canvases and other art works, as well as in the spaces we inhabit daily.

Gathering with others to look, listen, or create, and pausing to talk together about what we notice can encourage the riches of new honesty to emerge.

In San Francisco, Guild friends have experimented by gathering for "Art Walks". Guided by Sue Renfrew and Hal Childs, we are introduced to a museum exhibit, enter and meander individually, stand with pieces appealing or not - allowing them in. Periodically, we pause to share our responses and hear others. Then we have lunch and explore with discussion. Sue also offers seminars with a theme evoked through the life of an artist. Her home becomes both exhibit space and studio for the day.

Such encouragements help me to continue walking through extraordinary everyday entrances for some truth in the way things are, for the story-in-motion of bearable sorrow, of unbearable beauty, of soul. What is available in your everyday today?

For information about the next Saturday offering at Sue's home in San Francisco, please call her at 415-221-7472, or contact the Guild office. A date will be set for spring.

*Elizabeth Bremer*

## **Casting Seeds Now Emphasizes Research and Development**

Casting Seeds was formed about ten years ago to provide a leadership training program for the Guild. Over the past few years the group's focus has shifted now that all members are full Guild Leaders who continue to practice the craft of leadership, engaging deeply in mutual critique and support. As long time Leaders and Mentors have retired or reduced their activity, the responsibility for designing and staffing new seminars has shifted to Casting Seeds participants. Each year, we have offered a long summer seminar and a Solstice/Advent/Winter seminar. Individual members are also organizing smaller projects such as two March workshops on "Living in the Future." The group is facilitated by Hal Childs and Patricia Calcagno Stenger. Other regular members are Harry Henderson, Jennifer Larson and Faith Mason.

Our group is sometimes joined by other leaders to engage in intensive readings and discussions as we continue to explore the writings of Wolfgang Giegerich and their implications for psychology and for our work in the Guild.

*Harry Henderson*

## **A Psychology Addressing the Modern Soul**

In July 2014 Guild leaders Hal Childs, Faith Mason, and Harry Henderson went to Berlin to attend the third conference of the International Society for Psychology as the Discipline of Interiority (ISPDI) in Berlin. The conference theme was "The Psychological Difference." Broadly speaking, this is a perspective that distinguishes between our personal and "human, all too human" experience and the articulation of the truth of soul as it reveals itself in a given situation or moment in history. In brief, rather than a metaphysical substance that is eternal and absolute; the modern soul is no-thing, it is only the process, the happening, of this very moment (the moment as culture, history and our daily lives).

Hal Childs presented a paper with the title "Am I The Psychological Difference? An Inquiry." The paper explored the different ways in which consciousness is related to the psychological difference. In formal presentations and informal discussions we and the other participants explored the interpretation of "soul phenomena" in myth, culture, and contemporary events. The ISPDI now seems to be firmly established. The group will hold its next international meeting in Malibu California May 12-14, 2016.

This past month, at the Guild's Report from Berlin event Hal, Faith, and Harry presented varying perspectives on the meaning and importance of the psychological difference for our experience of soul in the world and in our daily lives. Recordings of the presentations will be made available through the Guild's website. Together with other members of Casting Seeds, we continue to deepen our understanding of psychology as the discipline of interiority and to apply it to the design and leadership of Guild seminars.

Even as we have benefited in the Guild's work from these new perspectives on psychology, we also contribute to the work of the international group through our participation in teleseminars, online forums, and in-person meetings. We have made the Guild and its work more "visible" and continue to explore collaborations.

*Harry Henderson*

## **An Invitation for Reflection and Response**

I am lately contemplating the question of what it might mean to be responsible for the meaning in my own life. Jung tells us we no longer have a myth. Giegerich says that modern man has reached the "end of meaning." And I wonder what that means, in an individual life. At midlife, the things that defined meaning and purpose in my daily activities are changing pretty dramatically: kids both in college, career well-established... It's a time for re-evaluating.

Am I doing it right? How do I judge? There are no generally accepted cultural guidelines, the cultural institutions as containers of ultimate value and meaning no longer contain *living truth* – not because they are deficient, but simply obsolete, no longer where truth *can*

be found... I must find my own truth, "live in accordance with the truth of my being at this moment of my life" as Hal Childs put it.

What is my truth, here and now? I discover it through active engagement with the individual phenomenon of daily life: an emotion, a world event, a relationship issue, an obstacle that blocks my path and brings me to a standstill. The first level of response is apt to be ego-oriented, perhaps focused on problem-solving. But if I stay present to the phenomenon itself, allowing it, as in a dialog, to speak for itself, it unfolds on other levels, making more clear what is required of me *in this instance* to live "in accordance with the truth" that births itself in the moment, at its/my own living edge. At this soul-making edge I begin to understand what it really means to be responsible for creating meaning in my own life. One moment at a time.

You are invited to reflect on this question as well, and to submit a response to the Threshing Floor. Please keep it under 400 words (visual images are also welcome) and email it to [office@guildsf.org](mailto:office@guildsf.org).

Jennie Larson

## Study-Circles in Local Communities

The following groups offer Records-related studies in their communities, managed independently of the Guild. We invited them to share an idea or experience from their work this past year, and provide their contact information. If we have missed a group you are aware of, we would love to hear about it. Please send an update for publication in a future TF.

### South San Francisco Bay Area More Fire for Life

More Fire for Life meets at the home of Nils and Judith Peterson for three 6-week series per year, and for a 1-day Advent seminar. This has been the rhythm for over twenty years without a single session missed. We have about 12 to 20 people in our circles. Most participants live in the South Bay, but others have come from the wider Bay Area, with one man, Bill Thomas, coming all the way from Maryland for the one day seminars.

Using the Guild's modified Socratic method, we explore material from the Records, Jung's writings, and the teachings of other wisdom-keepers. Art, bodywork, music, and poetry help us to explore our texts in depth.

We recently explored two topics more thoroughly than usual by spending two series on each. The ego-Self axis was the first topic, with our texts taken from Jung and Edward Edinger (*Ego and Archetype*) and passages from Jesus. The second topic revolved around Cynthia Bourgeault's book, *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene*. This work of profound scholarship and mysticism looks carefully at Mary Magdalene as an advanced, perhaps even "the most important" disciple of Jesus. It explores the sacred role of love and eros in the transformation

process. Particularly memorable was her work with "kenosis," a radical "letting go" to something greater.

We recently had a guest leader, John Lee, who came from Denver to lead a day-long seminar, "*Wisdom, the Mother of Jesus*." We sat in a circle of 17 as John brought, mainly through the scholarship of Margaret Barker, evidence in the Hebrew Scriptures of a mystical tradition different from the 'law' tradition with which we are familiar. A feminine aspect of the creator, called Sophia or Wisdom, is evident in the Book of Proverbs as well as in the New Testament Book of Revelations. With the Creator in the beginning, Wisdom is an artisan, a dancer, a "delight." We were often asked about our feeling response to the material presented, and most of us felt profoundly grateful and comforted to connect with this feminine energy in creation. At one point, we went outside and experienced Wisdom, and ourselves, as a part of nature. The sacred was all around us in trees, flowers, shrubs, the earth, and sky, and within us as well. This was an excellent seminar.

For information about upcoming Tuesday evening series or other events, contact Linda Davidge at 408-371-5535 or email: [LindaPD215@aol.com](mailto:LindaPD215@aol.com).

Judith Peterson and Manuel Costa

### Philadelphia Area

*Approaching the Gospels Together* is the title of Mary C. Morrison's book, published by Pendle Hill in 1985. There is much to tell about this legacy that has grown directly out of the work done by Dr. Henry Sharman at the Pendle Hill Quaker Study Center in Wallingford, PA, near Philadelphia.

This resource holds a profound concept that continues to gain interest and application. Her title has double meanings: To read the gospels *together* in small groups, and to read the first three gospels *together* in Synoptic Parallels. For over fifty years classes have met in congregations of the Episcopal Church, using Dr. Sharman's parallel texts. Slowly, it is growing.

There is emerging reality. Those who preach and teach in the church with the authority of the seminary and pulpit are speaking today to people who are very well educated in other disciplines, life experiences, and information technology. Yet, the Bible is largely unread.

We have learned with confidence that it is intriguing and inspiring to read with others the *full* Gospels of *Matthew*, *Mark* and *Luke* in a parallel format, in the order in which they have been preserved, with in-depth conversation guided by time-honored questions. Transformation becomes evident as the teachings of Jesus unfold.

One may even learn what it means to be fully human: to identify/recognize the inner self, in relationship to God, to our shadow self, and to one another.

Helen W. White, Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

**The East Coast  
Guild for Transformational Studies  
(Washington, DC; Virginia; Maryland)**

For several decades, residents of the DC Metro Area have been attending the Life and Teachings of Jesus Summer Seminar (“the Records seminar”) and other offerings of the Guild for Psychological Studies in California. In the 1990’s, Julie Gaebe began offering Guild classes at St. Mark’s Church, launching intense interest in soul work that continues to this day.

A “DC Home Guild” group formed in 2001 to extend the work of the Guild for Psychological Studies. Home Guild is a monthly study group held in participants’ homes and led by members that supports continuing soul work throughout the year.

In 2010, a handful of members of the original DC Home Guild group formed the East Coast Guild for Transformational Studies and began offering nine-day summer seminars in Maryland, guided by Hal Childs and Patricia Stenger. The content changes each year, with past seminars including: “Who I Am, I Must Become,” “With Desire I Am Desiring,” “Wound and Healing: Consciousness and Love,” and “The Gifts of the Shadow.” Passages from the synoptic gospels, poetry, and myth, coupled with Jungian concepts, guide participants into discovering self and accessing the wisdom, creativity, and power we hold at our core. The next east coast seminar will be in the summer of 2016 and we hope you will consider joining us for a remarkable experience. For further information contact [susanthompson045@yahoo.com](mailto:susanthompson045@yahoo.com).

In 2012, a second Home Guild group was formed from participants of East Coast summer seminars.

**Participants write from the Home Guild groups:**

**Home Guild I:**

This fall marked the 14th year of monthly meetings and the fifth year of working with our mentor Hal Childs. Each month Hal sends us a letter and an activity guide on a theme the group has chosen for our year’s work together, then Hal supervises two members of the group each month in planning & facilitating the session.

This year, in response to the group’s desire to have more concentrated time together, we added two all-day retreats, and invited members of the more newly formed DC Home Guild II to join us for our annual spring weekend retreat with Hal. As always, it’s been rich and provocative soul work for this group of seekers who are committed to the Guild process of deep questioning and contemplative & expressive arts.

Our theme this year is the journey of the hero/shero in the context of the Hebrew Scriptures, supplemented by reading Jack Miles’ *God: A Biography*. We’ve dissected the meaning and experience of the hero/shero with its central theme of facing the *impossible*; considered the evolution of god’s personality and relationship with humankind in the creation story & the characters of

Abraham, Isaac, Esau, Jacob; wrestled with our ideas of god and the most challenging experiences of our lives that call us to our Selves. At our February retreat we examined our personal spiritual/soul journeys, charting a timeline of our notions of god from childhood and into our 60s and 70s, punctuated by periods of major wrestling. All the while we dance with the question of *what is soul doing to itself and to us?*

*Barbara Black*

**Home Guild II:**

My Saturday group almost always includes an opportunity to dis-cover our selves through a spontaneous art project. We are encouraged to drop our self-criticism concerning art making and see what the soul has to say.



Our group has approached the unconscious this year and the dark specter of the shadow. We try to catch and attend to our dreams... puzzling them out

and hearing what they tell us.

As a sculptor, I find myself working with both the conscious and unconscious aspects of the light and dark. This links me to the Guild’s work and I am grateful for the ongoing commitment, which deepens our lives as it challenges us. We hope to become more authentic as we travel the road toward our true selves.



*Betty Foster*

We also facilitate an Advent Evening at St. Mark’s at the time of the winter solstice. Through a synchronous process, each participant finds themselves selected by a figure in the Jesus birth story. Among other activities, participants are invited to tell their own stories as that figure. This candlelit night has become a tradition for many at St. Mark’s.

Each spring, 20-25 people gather to experience “An Evening with Hal Childs,” supported by the Christian Education Program at St. Mark’s. Generally, Hal selects a story from the life and teachings of Jesus and leads an experiential evening of group and personal exploration.

Thus, the work continues to deepen and expand in the DC Metro Area with two ongoing Home Guilds and interest in forming a third; an annual retreat for DC Home Guilds in the Spring; and the special Guild for Transformational Studies Summer Seminars.

*Susan Thompson*

## Southern California: Claremont

We are soon going for a weekend at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, and our topic for the weekend will be: "Who Am I Becoming?" At the end of each weekend we explore ideas for the next one. We'll meet again at the Abbey in August.

We are down to only five of us now, and only four regulars. We've lost Mili Quinlan, who is now in an assisted living home near her children in northern California. Her husband Jack passed away last year, and she needs a caregiver. Our men are gone to the next world, so we are a very small group, still enjoying getting together when we can. To contact me, please email [patwro@att.net](mailto:patwro@att.net) or call 310-323-2788.

*Pat Wroblewski*

## The Northwest: Seattle Area

Sometime in April, the Northwest Committee will have its final seminar around the concept of "Endings" to be led by John Petroni. With fewer than ten people attending our seminars we decided it's just no longer financially feasible to continue. We will however, continue to work and study as a group and should an opportunity arise, we might very well have another seminar somewhere down the line. We do not see this as a finality, but are looking to see how else we might continue the work. If you would like to connect with us, please email me at [lgrosvenor@earthlink.net](mailto:lgrosvenor@earthlink.net), or contact me by phone at 360-637-8158.

*Laura Grosvenor*

## Denver, CO: Guild for Sacred Studies

The Denver Guild for Sacred Studies continues its activities with one 5-day seminar in June in the foothills, once-a-month meetings, and a handful of weekend and one-day seminars. Details are on the website at [denverguild.org](http://denverguild.org).

Last May a group traveled to Turkey, Patmos, and Athens, visiting sacred sites and learning sacred geometry, working with compass and pencils, ink and brush, to create our own pieces. Another group of pilgrims is about to visit Assisi, Rome, and Florence. Our hope is to visit some of the world's thin places, to be as still in the moment as we can, and to experience the brief coming together of spirit and matter. There are rumors that future pilgrimages may include Scotland, Ireland, and Kyoto. Contact Jim Redmond for travel information at: [jgr@ecentral.com](mailto:jgr@ecentral.com)

In all our doings this year we are working with the theme of becoming the artist of one's life, moving through the narrow gate, and supporting each person's ability to stand tall in the world as individuals who live from heart, imagination, creativity and child-like wonder. In case that's not enough, we also play and laugh a lot. Come join us! We welcome inquiries by email at: [denverguild@juno.com](mailto:denverguild@juno.com).

*Shirley Sullivan*

## Four Springs Seminars – An Exciting New Year



View from Olive Tree Patio area

The new lodge opened last June, with a Guild seminar. Since then we have welcomed several new groups, other old friends and a second Guild seminar. It is wonderful to see people enjoy the lodge and to host groups once again. Our reservations calendar for the New Year is filling from May on, and we look forward to hosting the Guild's long seminar in July.

We have started to list cabins on AirBnb to help us through the winter. Come visit, send your friends, and if you know a group that needs a retreat, especially this spring, please send them our way!



Multi-use Gathering Space set up for dining

We are grateful to collaborate with the Guild this year on stewardship of the forest. This is something Guild members and friends of Four Springs have envisioned for a long time. Bringing a new level of consciousness to the land will increase the health, fire safety and beauty of the forest here.



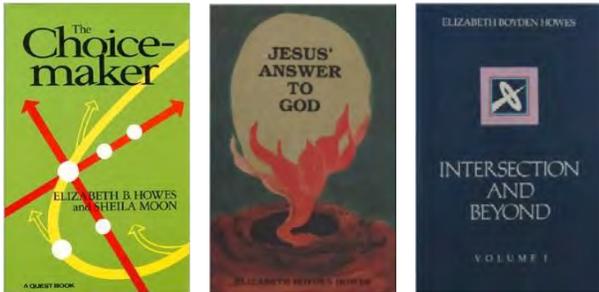
The Four Springs board is also grateful for the gift of art by Lisa Yount commissioned by the Guild. Though it can't be appreciated from this photo showing where it hangs, her piece depicts the lodge as it was, the fire, the construction and the new lodge, together with the symbol of the Uroboros. It has a place of honor in the entryway where it introduces guests to the history of Four Springs. It has inspired many conversations already! Thank you for this thoughtful gift.

*Tim Locke, Ph.D.  
Executive Director*

## Guild Books

The Guild Publishing House sold 267 books last year. Of those, 71 were *The Choice is Always Ours*, 57 were *Knee Deep in Thunder*. Those two are our best sellers on Amazon. What we really need are reviews for: *Jesus' Answer to God*, *Footprints of God*, *Intersection and Beyond Vol 1 and 2*, *Intersection the Journal Vol 1 and 2*, and *Journey to Jerusalem*. If any of those have moved you, please offer a brief write-up and submit it to Carina Ravelly at [guildpublishing@yahoo.com](mailto:guildpublishing@yahoo.com). She will take care of posting it on the book's listing on Amazon.

The above titles and additional titles are offered on the Guild website. A small volume of Sheila Moon's poetry would make a nice gift.



## Books that Changed my Life

In 1984, before I ever went to a Guild seminar, my new therapist suggested I read *The Choicemaker* by Elizabeth Boyden Howes and Sheila Moon, founding leaders of the Guild. It led where my unfocused searching had been drawing me. I had recently returned to the Episcopal Church after a 25-year hiatus and remained because of new (to me) messages from the pulpit about inner transformation, woundedness and healing, by an interim priest, John Gallagher, who was a member of the Guild.

I then read *Jesus' Answer to God*, and *Intersection and Beyond I*, by EBH. By the time I went to a seminar, Jesus and Christianity had been rescued for me, and I wrote to Elizabeth about the impact of her books.

I don't agree with everything she says, but the writings combine a study of the man Jesus with a Jungian underpinning – a combination I found nowhere else. Though I had discarded Christology as not making any sense, and a Christian way of life as judgmental and unloving, I was still trying to be "good," and clinging to a self-image as a "good" person. These books helped me see that Jesus was pointing not to himself as an object of worship, and a judge of persons, but to a way of life that meant an openness to inner guidance and an ongoing dying to the old to make room for the new.

*The Choicemaker* (Quest Book, 1988) is out of print but available from Amazon, along with an earlier edition, *Man the Choicemaker* (1973). Descriptions of the other books are available on the Guild website.

Janet Boeth Jones

## Fees, Scholarships, Payment Plans

Perhaps the value of stepping into a long residential seminar, such as this summer's *The Inevitable Gravity of Beautiful Trouble* invites you to apply or to tell a friend. You look at arranging your schedule; your heart soars! You look at your budget; your heart sinks. Don't give up—chances are, there's a way.

We keep seminar fees as low as possible, and offer financial assistance to those who need it. The advertised fee for each seminar is the amount that will cover the cost, based on the expected attendance. Costs include the facility, lodging, meals, materials, and stipends for leaders and staff. Those who can afford the full fee help support the Guild's ability to continue offering seminars. Anyone who cannot attend due to cost is encouraged to request financial assistance. The Guild does not want cost to be an obstacle to participation and is fortunate to be able to offer scholarships and payment plans.

### Scholarships:

To request a scholarship, please contact the Guild office, and your request will be forwarded to the staff for the seminar you wish to attend. Each seminar is allocated a percentage of its costs, which the seminar staff may distribute as scholarships. Because scholarship funds are limited, it's important to make your request early, and to request the minimum support that you can manage. Scholarships may be combined with payment plans.

### Payment Plans:

To arrange a payment plan, please contact the Guild office. With or without a scholarship, you can arrange to pay over time, with the final payment due by the end of the calendar year in which the seminar is attended.

All seminars, and the Guild's overall operations, are supported by donations. Gracious appreciation is extended to those who support the Guild's work—through attending seminars, through making tax-deductible contributions, or both!

## Thank You, 2015 Donors

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Peter Eveleth	Rita McGowan	Susan Warner Smith
LynneAnne Forest	Hal and Sonya Milton	William L. Snorf
Eleanor Friar -	Denis Murray	Nancy Russell Stone
In Honor of Lu Grey	Sally Newlands	Carl Sutter
Jean Gansa	Maria Nieri	Susan Thompson
Tom and Carla Gerber	Lela Noble	Barb Tittle
Vanessa Glass	Elli Norris	David Travers
Dian Greenwood	Anne Ogonowski -	Patricia Trocmé
Dr. Gretchen Gundrum -	In Honor of Patricia	Alyzsa Van Til
In Honor of Jean Gansa	Calcagno Stenger	Mary Ann Weisberg

## 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

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