



The Threshing Floor

February 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.

Living in the Future

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.

We will meet on two Sundays (March 8 and 22, 2015), from 9:30-4:30 with an hour for our lunch.

Dates: Sunday, March 8, 2015 - 9:30am - 4:30pm

Sunday, March 22, 2015 - 9:30am - 4:30pm

Place: Sue Renfrew's home in San Francisco. Please bring a bag lunch.

Leaders: Harry Henderson and Jennie Larson.

Fee: \$100 plus \$15 with registration. Scholarships are available for students or others with limited means.

Report from Berlin 2014: What is soul today?

The International Society for Psychology as the Discipline of Interiority (ISPDI) held its second international conference in Berlin during July. The theme was The Psychological Difference, a central concept in Wolfgang Giegerich's exploration of a psychology with soul.

Three Guild leaders attended the conference, Hal Childs, Harry Henderson and Faith Mason. Join us for a day exploring some of the central concepts and implications in a new understanding of a psychology that deepens and extends Jung's idea of the collective unconscious.

The day will include presentations with time for conversation and dialogue. We will also attempt an experiential group process exploring an ancient text from the *Gospel of Thomas* and a modern "text" from Marc Andreessen, co-founder of Netscape and the Silicon Valley venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, from the point of view of soul.

Hal Childs: "The psychological difference in the light of a brief history of the psychological difference."

Harry Henderson: "The Psychological Difference as Perspective and Tool."

Faith Mason: "The Psychological Difference: So what? Why bother?"

Date: February 7, 2015 (Saturday)

Location: To be determined

Cost: \$50 plus \$15 with registration

For more information contact Hal Childs, 415-573-2469; halchilds@earthlink.net

Nourishing the Soul XX

By: Nils Peterson

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.

Dates: Monday, April 13 after 5:30 PM through

Thursday, April 16, after lunch

Leaders: Nils Peterson, Maureen Draper, and Sue Renfrew

Location: Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg, CA

Fee: \$50 non-refundable registration fee plus \$600 tuition for a total of \$650.

(Scholarship is available).

Register through the Guild office: Guild for Psychological Studies, P.O. Box 29385, San Francisco, CA 94129, [415-561-2385](tel:415-561-2385), office@guildsf.org application form available online at www.guildsf.org

February Birthdays

Robert Gibbons	Feb 2
Hal Milton	Feb 2
Patrick Sullivan	Feb 6
Rita McGowan	Feb 9
Carl Sutter	Feb 9
Judith Sweet	Feb 9
John Roedel	Feb 11
Susan Hice	Feb 12
Nancy Anderson	Feb 14
Linda Davidge	Feb 15
Joanna Bramble	Feb 21
David Dugan	Feb 22
Ann Elsbach	Feb 22
Polly Post	Feb 26
Bob Barram	Feb 27
Joanie Misrack	Feb 28

Poem from Barbara Lyon

Attend Holy
Stand under cyprus
Shade for my eyes
Vast blue, nimbus cloud
Sparkling water below
Bird perched in its shade
sings abundance

March Threshing Floor

By: Elizabeth Bremer
Secretary of the Board

The March TF will be a special issue, as last year, printed and mailed to the Guild's full mailing list of about 2,000 people. It will also be e-mailed, as usual, to e-mail subscribers. The special issue will contain updates about the Guild and the activities of affiliated groups, as well as information about seminars, the website, publications, and other news. The special issue will provide informative updates to everyone, and help us connect with those who don't regularly receive Guild communications through e-mail.

The board of directors is gathering items for the special issue. In February, most regular submissions of articles, news items, remembrances, poems, stories, photos, etc. will be held for the April or May issues. However, if you have an item you would like to have considered for inclusion in the March issue, please submit it to the Guild office (office @guildsf.org) by February 7th. Otherwise, the next deadline for submission of items for the TF (April issue), will be March 20th.

The Man Who Has Many Answers

by Mary Oliver

The man who has many answers
is often found

in the theaters of information

where he offers graciously,

his deep findings.

While the man who has only questions,
to comfort himself, makes music.

March Birthdays

Sylvia Light	Mar 3
Tricia Schexnaydre	Mar 3
Charles Pfeifer	Mar 4
Rosalie Lambrose	Mar 7
Matthew Black	Mar 8
Andrea English	Mar 11
Laurie Mathers	Mar 15
John Gallagher	Mar 18
Beth Harrison	Mar 18
Sally Pugsley	Mar 18
Carol Gaab	Mar 21
Gail Priestley	Mar 25
Mary Louise Metz	Mar 26
Teresa Sylvester	Mar 27
Susanna Singer	Mar 29
Rudy Marcus	Mar 30

Guild for Psychological Studies
July 11-19, 2015



The Inevitable Gravity of Beautiful Trouble

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.

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 and Patricia Calcagno Stenger, MA, MFT
Fee: \$1,485. Include a non-refundable fee of \$50 with registration.
Limited scholarships and payment plans are available.
Contact for more information:
Hal Childs, 415-573-2469; halchilds@earthlink.net
Register at www.guildsf.org/seminar-registration

This seminar meets the qualifications for 30 hours of continuing education credit for MFT's, 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.

Participants will:

- Learn aspects of Jungian work on the psychological implications of life's troubles.
- Explore the importance of accessing the unconscious in order to process the buried, complex feelings related to the inevitable suffering of daily life.
- Explore and practice psychological thinking.
- Use art expression, body awareness and imagination as ways to dialogue with energies present in the self and in the world.

Donations

The Guild is a nonprofit group, with 501(c)(3) status, and so your donations are tax deductible.

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Harry Henderson, Treasurer
Jennifer Larson, Vice President
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Distribution: Bob Ridder

Please note: Items for inclusion in the Threshing Floor should be mailed to the Guild Office, Attn. Threshing Floor Editor, or emailed to 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.

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.

Subscriptions

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 at P.O. Box 29385, San Francisco, CA 94129-0385. For inquiries or address changes, contact the Guild at that address or by phone 415- 561-2385, or email office@guildsf.org.

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