



The Threshing Floor

December 2014

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.

Campbell CA Seminar

By Judith Peterson

MORE FIRE FOR LIFE invites you to a special one day seminar led by Guild leader, John Lee, from Denver Colorado.

On Saturday, January 31, 2015
From 1:00 to 8:00pm--including pot luck feast
At the Petersons: 418 California St., Campbell, CA
Fee: \$40.00

Please register with Linda Davidge

LindaPD215@aol.com

Include what you will bring to the feast

WISDOM, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Have you ever imagined living out of a **center** that guides --

- when one's day is clouded with obligations?
- when the heart is struggling with conflicting rules?
- when the soul is weary?

There is such a **center**. Her name is Holy Wisdom. She is the "breath of awareness" beneath our struggles, "the dance before the Lord" at the beginning of all creating, the one who sets a table and invites us into her house," the heartbeat of Jesus' life, and the one who calls out to us from the "gates" of our lives.

Our day together we will seek to recognize and appropriate her presence, her whispers, her

guidance. Resources will include The Records of the Life of Jesus and related resources.

"In the thick of life at its shabbiest and most exciting, in the routine of daily marketing and the struggles of ordinary people to survive --it is there that Wisdom Woman extends her invitation." Kathleen O'Connor, *The Wisdom Literature*

"The recurring theme throughout the Kingdom tradition is Wisdom...." Margaret Barker, *The Hidden Tradition of the Kingdom of God*

For This Day

**In which everything is meant for you
And nothing need be explained....**

Wallace Stevens

***For this day, the sweet lowings, the brays,
the heavenly music are all for us. The world***

***brings us the presents we so richly deserve,
for are we not children of the Father?***

***For this day we sit on Mary's blue lap
at home with ox, ass, shepherd, king, angel.***

***Yes, there is a Herod, but for this day
he rages off-stage in the empty city.***

***For this day, the trees are for us, and then,
"the whole wideness of the night."***

Nils Peterson

I Would Dance for the Virgin

In bygone days I stood straight up, the cantor would intone in formal mode and I continued the ancient verses in ritual adoration and devotion.

I sang love songs in a foreign tongue, faithful to the pattern, heeding not the words. It was a weekly joining with the feminine, chaste and pure and dry and barren.

And pattern it set for me in later days fleeing the words and invitations of real women, dancing in solitude to lifeless music seeking perfection that did not exist.

The women have passed through my life, not knowing the Virgin outstayed them her image blocked out the earthly, the real, the challenge of their being.

Called to respond to a love song in my own tongue, I knew not the words. And the singers fled, leaving me voiceless and stumbling to create notes anew.

These earthly virgins I did not recognize until I heard the words anew and my response was tears not words aching from my unconnected parts.

And I would dance to the Virgin now standing not straight but twisting, bending, undulating in a primal rhythm, using all of me in a song of love.

And I would not dull the space between us with words and phrases built into a fence but with hands and eyes and loins afire embrace the other in and out and dance forever.

Bill Thomas

Happy News:

Manuel Costa Granddaughter

Maryjane Nicole Costa born November 20th
7 lbs. 5 oz. and measured 19.5 inches.



Congratulations to Nathan & Tiffany Costa, and
Congratulations to new grandfather Manuel Costa.

December Birthdays

Barbara Barnard	Dec 3
John Petroni	Dec 4
Hope Raymond	Dec 11
Dorinda Hawk	Dec 14
Carina Ravelly	Dec 16
Jennifer Larson	Dec 17
Angie Papastefan	Dec 17
Linda Missouri	Dec 19
Elizabeth Chandler	Dec 20
Fran Sheridan	Dec 23
Elizabeth Bremer	Dec 31

Donations

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

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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, FAX 415-561-2386, or email office@guildsf.org.

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