

The Threshing Floor

February 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.

For a New Beginning

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

~ John O'Donohue ~
(*To Bless the Space Between Us*)

Bill Strahan

Bill Strahan, our beloved friend and long time member of The Claremont Committee for the Guild for Psychological Studies, passed away on December 8th, 2013. He became ill while visiting his son and family in Washington, and died of a severe lung infection for which there was no cure. In the past, Bill made several trips up to Four Springs for wonderful seminars, which were positive influences on his life. Here in Southern California we gathered for the Claremont seminars and meetings in our homes to continue the journey. Now we are just a few, but we will continue to explore the riches found in the stories and teachings of Jesus, Jung, Guild members, and others who light our paths. Thank you for being there.

Pat Wroblecki

PRAYING

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

Mary Oliver

March Threshing Floor

The March TF will be a special issue, 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 purpose of the special issue will be to provide informative updates to everyone, and to connect with those who don't regularly receive Guild communications through e-mail.

The board of directors is gathering items for the special issue. 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 10th. Otherwise, the next deadline for submission of items for the TF (April issue), will be March 20th.

*Elizabeth Bremer
Secretary of the Board*

TRUST

LOOKS like a tiny, perfect hand clutching a calloused, stubby finger.

--Like the dark eyes of an hours-old fawn, rescued from a forest fire, curled in the corner of a sheriff's office.

SOUNDS like "I do" and the rustle of white satin.

--Like "Goodbye, dear," and the closing of a kindergarten door.
--Like the quiet murmurings of "Amen."

FEELS like a knotted stomach melting into softness, as she lies on park grass, her head resting on his shoulder.

--Like a deep, unexpected tenderness towards a face upturned for comforting words and touch.

TASTES like the first bite of the first dinner cooked by your child.

SMELLS like incense and beeswax, flowers, and a sugary wine held to your lips.

TRUST is a slowing heart, inner expansion, uplift, and letting go, all at once.

Janet Boeth Jones

Nourishing the Soul XIX

Once upon time, there was a king who had three daughters. He had ruled for many years, felt old, thought it time to pass his rule along and decided to give each daughter a third of the kingdom. At an assembly of all the nobility, he gives each daughter her third asking only that she tells him how much she loves him.

This would be one way to begin the story that is Shakespeare's King Lear, the richest and darkest of Shakespeare's four great tragedies. The play is myth, fairy tale, filled with some of the most extraordinary language ever written for the stage. (Many have said it is too big for the stage, no production can fully realize its resonances. For a hundred and fifty years, it was rewritten so that it had a happy ending to make it more tolerable.) The play reaches in and touches some of the deepest places in us, our darkest fears, our desires for justice, our longing for good, indeed, what it is to be a human in society, what we owe to each other. We will bring art, poetry, and music to the weekend. Lear is told that he "should not have been old till thou hadst been wise." We think that these ways of "nourishing the soul" will help us be a little wiser than we are.

Dates: Tuesday, April 8 after 5:30 PM through Friday, April 11, 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, office@guildsf.org

application form available online at www.guildsf.org

Nils Peterson

February Birthdays

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

NEXT MORE FIRE FOR LIFE SERIES

"This do and you will live."

Jesus

In our next series of More Fire for Life we will enter more fully the doorway to life (perhaps meeting the Tree of Life again), building on our work from "The Path of Conscious Love" and "The Eros of Wound and Healing."

Along with expanding our concepts and experiences of Life itself, we will focus on the role of the human ego in relation to the deep Self: what must we "do" to "live."

Material will be drawn from Edward Edinger's *Ego and Archetype* and the *Records of Jesus* and, of course, experiences of participants, inner and outer. We hope to expand our relationship to symbols through active imagination.

Tuesday nights 7PM--9PM, February 4--March 11
Home of Nils and Judith Peterson
Fee for series: \$100.00

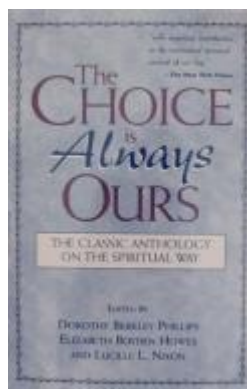
Due to Judith's tight schedule our second series will begin after a one week break and will be March 25--April 29

To register for this seminar contact Linda Davidge at 408-371-5535 or email: LindaPD215@aol.com.

Judith Peterson

March Birthday

Sylvia Light	Mar 3
Tricia Schexnaydre	Mar 3
Charles Pfeifer	Mar 4
Fredric Mendes	Mar 5
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
Gail Priestley	Mar 25
Mary Louise Metz	Mar 26
Teresa Sylvester	Mar 27
Susanna Singer	Mar 29
Rudy Marcus	Mar 30



The classic anthology on the spiritual way, *The Choice Is Always Ours*, is still available.

For those of you unfamiliar with the volume, the quotation on the front cover from the New York Times is still apt: "An inspiring contribution to the instinctual spiritual revival of our day."

First published sixty years ago, this beautiful, wise, and searching book--an exemplary guide to spiritual development--features several hundred carefully chosen selections from such writers as William Blake, Carl Jung, Paul Tillich, Lao Tzu, Henry Miller, T.S. Eliot, Nikos Kazantzakis, D.H. Lawrence, Oscar Wilde, Bertrand Russell, Rollo May, and many others.

The price is \$19.95.

For ten or more books shipped to the same address, take a 10% discount.

Also available is the Study Guide for \$5.00.

mail with your check to:
P.O. Box 29385 San Francisco, CA 94129-0385
or fax to 360-272-9138
or send an e-mail to GuildPublishing@yahoo.com,
and pay with your credit card

Guild for Psychological Studies

June 21-29, 2014

Wound and Healing Consciousness and Love



“Love contains and transforms that which has not been loved.
A thing is recognized only to the extent it is loved.”
—*St. Augustine*

We are born whole, rich with possibilities. But as we grow and adapt to a harsh world our life is narrowed and restricted. We are wounded by parents, friends, teachers, others. We develop defenses to cope and survive and become cut off from the deep abundance and meaning of our true self.

Deep in our core the longing for healing and wholeness awakens. We know somehow life could be fuller, freer, more abundant and joyful. The questions emerge:

What is healing?

What is the healing process?

Is the healing of deep wounds truly possible?

How are consciousness and love related to healing?

The life and teachings of Jesus reflect a person who understands the mysterious process of healing, and his teachings reveal the way of the wounded-healer. In this seminar we will seek to awaken the archetype of the wounded-healer that lies at the heart of each of us. We approach the teachings of the historical Jesus through the lens of the depth psychology of C. G. Jung to explore the possibility of our own healing in depth. For Jung the wound itself is the teacher, and when we face our wounds with courage and compassion we discover the gold at the heart of what has been rejected.

“The meaning and purpose of a problem seems to lie not in its solution
but in our working at it incessantly.”
—*C. G. Jung*

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 together will be enriched by the use of non-verbal approaches: meditation, expressive arts, music, body movement and awareness, and silence.

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: \$1,475. Include a non-
refundable fee of \$50 with
registration.

Limited scholarships are available and
payment plans are available

Contact for more information: Hal Childs,
415-573-2469; halchilds@earthlink.net

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.

Participants will:

- Understand wounding as an inevitable aspect of life.
- Understand how defenses help us cope with wounds.
- Learn how to work with the wounded-healer archetype.
- Develop attitudes and practices that support healing and discover the freedom that lies within the wound itself.
- Explore the integration of spiritual and psychological perspectives on wounding-healing as a universal process.

Donations

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

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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.

Membership

Membership in the Guild is of two types - Voting and Associate. Voting Membership requires active participation in some form of leadership or committee role, or other volunteer effort, and the payment of annual dues, which includes the Threshing Floor. Associate Members are those who are not Voting Members but who subscribe to the TF.

Subscriptions

To become a new Associate and receive 12 issues of *The Threshing Floor* a year, 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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