



The Threshing Floor

June 2014

Newsletter of the Guild for Psychological Studies

Web site: www.guildsf.org

Phone: (415) 561-2385

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

e-mail: 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.

A Pathway for Seekers of Truth

Nominations are open until July 20th for candidates for the Guild's Board of Directors. Our annual election will take place in August.

Board work offers a way of expanding one's own consciousness while opening pathways for other seekers of truth, transformation, and fulfillment. You have insights and creativity to bring. We are calling upon you to join our leadership team.

Please contact the Guild office or any current board member if you would like to participate with the board, or if you would like to suggest someone else, or would like more information.

The Board manages the Guild's structure and policies in order to further our mission and vision (see Mission and Vision Statements in masthead). We seek to bring forth the Guild's work by supporting the energy of leaders to grow and create programs while maintaining a healthy financial basis through which to fuel future development.

Directors who bring experience with financial, organizational, and program development are especially sought. Individuals who are not compensated for any work in the Guild during their board service must comprise more than half of the directors.

Currently, the board meets every-other-month, on a Saturday, in the East San Francisco Bay area, however, the meeting schedule is periodically revisited as members' needs change. It is 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.

By July 20th, potential candidates must confirm their willingness to run and have the official nomination of a voting member in good standing (voting members may nominate themselves). Nominations are due by 5:00pm Pacific Daylight Time, Sunday, July 20, 2014.

Along with their confirmation, candidates are asked to provide a brief statement of interest and qualifications to be included with ballots (150 words max.). Ballots will be mailed on August 1st.

The August election will provide for up to four directors to be elected to two-year terms. Current directors completing their two-year terms are: Hal Childs and Harry Henderson. They are eligible to run again if they wish. There are two vacant positions. Other directors are: Jennifer Larson, who is at mid-term, and Elizabeth Bremer and Rita McGowan, who are currently completing terms but have been appointed to complete open terms through September 2015 in order to provide for staggered terms per the by-laws.

Elizabeth Bremer, Secretary of the Board
(lbremer4@aol.com)

The Board of Directors Invites You

The Guild Board of Directors is recruiting candidates between now and mid-July in preparation for the annual election, which will take place in August. We would like to hear from you to talk about board work and our plans for the coming year.

Our organization depends upon the active participation of the Guild community in furthering our work. You can contribute—please consider it. Additionally, there may be someone you would like to encourage to consider being a candidate—please speak with them.

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Currently, the board meets every other month, on a Saturday, 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.

Directors are elected to 2-year terms. Please contact the Guild office (office@guildsf.org) to submit a nomination. For more information, or to discuss your interest, please contact any current board member. The current directors are Elizabeth Bremer, Hal Childs, Harry Henderson, Jennifer Larson, and Rita McGowan.

Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, Sunday, July 20, 2014. By then, potential candidates must confirm their willingness to run and have the official nomination of a voting member in good standing (voting members may nominate themselves).

Along with their confirmation, candidates are asked to provide a brief statement of interest and qualifications to be included with ballots (150 words max.).

Ballots will be mailed on August 1st.

Elizabeth Bremer, Secretary of the Board
(lbremner4@aol.com)

June Birthdays

Michelle De Beixedon	Jun 3
Richard Naegle	Jun 4
Godelieve Theys	Jun 4
Denise Dinwiddie	Jun 5
Joe Wills	Jun 6
Gretchen Sterenberg	Jun 11
Alison Rayner-Hooson	Jun 15
Sue Renfrew	Jun 19
Tim Locke	Jun 20
Karen Petty	Jun 22
Jean Gansa	Jun 25
Nan Gallagher	Jun 26
Faith Mason	Jun 27
Rosemary Dickerson	Jun 28
Maureen McCarthy Draper	Jun 29

The Way of Imagination

Playing and imagining are natural ways of being human. As children, our first explorations of our world are through play and imagination. We reach out, we touch, we taste, we bump into things, and we bump into other people. Soul, in its infinite depths, is always exploring new ways of being, playing, and imagining. Sooner or later, in the process of life, imagination and play are wounded, stunted, cramped, toned down. We learn to diminish our trust in play and imagination as sources of pleasure, insight, and knowledge. Nevertheless, in the tradition of natural healing, like cures like, and play and imagination are always available to us as sources of healing, renewal, and awakening.

In the teachings of Jesus found in the *Records*, the "kingdom of God" is a "kingdom" of Play and Imagination, wherein a way of life is shown to us that is liberating and affirming of our deep humanness and our unique potential, as we are also shown the universal process of soul itself. Wounding seems to be an essential process of the cosmos, and thus so are renewal, healing, and joy also essential processes of the cosmos. In approaching our wounds, we are not just exploring the past, but are opening to soul's eternal process of love unfolding into consciousness.

Although play and imagination are wounded by life, they are also self-generating and self-healing. Consider joining us at the seminar this June, "Wound and Healing, Consciousness and Love," where we will allow the imagination to speak to us through Jesus' parables, and the Greek myth of *Eros and Psyche*, of liberation, joy and renewal.

See the flier for the seminar in this issue of the *Threshing Floor* for more information.

Hal Childs

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?

Is the healing of deep wounds truly possible?

What is the healing process?

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.

THE GIFTS OF THE SHADOW

The Play of Light and Darkness in the Kingdom of God

A TRANSFORMATIONAL SEMINAR

Shepherd's Spring, Sharpsburg, Maryland

August 9-17, 2014

Shadows are cast by light, and light exists in the "light" of the shadow. What is the dance of light and shadow over the ground of our life? We both experience - and are - this complex play between light and dark. In this seminar we will explore the interplay of light, beauty and joy with the shadowy nooks and crannies where the rejected parts of ourselves have been left behind. This is the journey of soul-work.

A metaphorical view of the historical Jesus' life and teachings shows us a way of soul-work by casting light on the More that we desire to know, the More that longs to be known, and the More that we are. When Jesus encounters profound love at his baptism and then meets his shadow in the wilderness, from then on, he speaks of a way of wholeness where light and darkness intermingle.

If we take our stand in profound love and then step into the wilderness of our own life, what gifts are possible? What treasure will we uncover? The psychology of C. G. Jung and the wisdom of the historical Jesus will guide us in learning to weave together the dark and light dimensions of our being in order to become our Self. We will seek the shadow who bestows the gift of our truth.

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 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.

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Hal Childs, MDiv, PhD, MFT and Patricia Stenger, MA, MFT of the Guild for Psychological Studies in California.

REGISTRATION

The cost is \$1499 per person (inclusive) for room, board, and instruction. For a registration form and additional information contact: Susan Thompson (susanthompson045@yahoo.com) 703-329-9797; Karen Falk (kfalkdc@gmail.com) and Andrew Getman (afgetman@gmail.com).

SPONSORS

The Guild for Psychological Studies, San Francisco, CA
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
The Jung Society of Washington, DC
The Center for Progressive Christianity, Boston, MA

Donations

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

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Hal Childs, President
Harry Henderson, Treasurer
Jennifer Larson, Vice President
Rita McGowan

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Bob Ridder : Administrative Coordinator

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

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.

Guild Contacts

In general:

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

Bob Ridder
Administrative Coordinator
(415) 561-2385
office@guildsf.org

Guild Website:

www.guildsf.org

Fundraising:

Guild Office
(415)-561-2385
office@guildsf.org
www.guildsf.org

Publishing House sales – books and CDs

Carina Ravelly
Guild Publishing House
guildpublishing@yahoo.com

