



The Threshing Floor

October 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.

Responses to Harry Henderson:

--From Norman McMullen

Your article in September's TF was a delight to read. You covered so much and expressed it (usually !) in understandable language.

I found your analysis of the developments in the technological and psychological worlds over the last 200 years was, generally, very helpful. However, I disagree with some of that analysis and several of your deductions from it.

1. The effect of capitalism: You say, "Capitalism depends on the worker's ability to demand enough value in wages to afford to consume the products and services being created. When combined with a global 'race to the bottom' technology, such as artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and robotics, increasingly marginalizes the human worker even as it entralls the consumer. Even as the individual and his or her potential continues to be featured in advertising and promoted by liberal ideology, the actual status of the individual is becoming problematic." Surely it is not the actual status of the individual that is becoming problematic, it is the work status of the workers that is increasingly problematic. You could argue that technology has the potential to free individuals from excessive work and, if we shared the work available more equitably, there is the opportunity for much more free time and the potential for self development for everyone – a good thing, surely.

2. Individual experience: You say, "Today, in 'medial modernity' the individual is being hollowed out (or perhaps turned inside out). What we cherish as private experience of an inner world looks to the ascendant algorithms to be a 'profile,' a set of numbers or

categories, a demographic." I don't get the hang of what you mean by "medial modernity," but are you really saying that the inner world experience of watching a full moon rise over a harvested field (etc, etc, etc) is down to ascendant logarithms?

3. The status of the individual: You say, "Given this shift in the logical status of the individual, a psychology that relies upon an individual having a fixed nature and boundaries seems increasingly irrelevant." I don't think you have made the case for the shift in the logical status of the individual, so to me it is not irrelevant to believe the individual has a psychological nature and boundaries, though I agree they are not "fixed."

4. Cognition and decisions made by computers: You say, "What is happening when your phone keeps your day organized, a bevy of websites suggest where to find what you want, and navigation apps tell you how to get there? What is happening is that just as our brain carries on all sorts of cognitions without "conscious" (ego) awareness, cognition and decisions are increasingly being made by computer algorithms interconnected by a vast network." I don't think so! You could have written that sentence: "Oh, my diary says I should be at home to receive a phone call, but I am going out for a coffee instead; and look at all these websites on my tablet saying what I might like to acquire, but no, I am a bit short of cash this month, and so I won't buy them"; and again "Oh, this app tells me this is the quickest way to the coffee shop, but no, I want to go via the river and see if the cherry blossom is out yet." There is that within each of us that can make choices whatever computers are offering us in a personalized way.

5. Has the soul 'left the building'? You quote Giegerich as saying, "The soul always thinks, and always starts its thinking anew from the historical situation in which it finds itself." That may be, but it is, surely, an illogical jump to say that the soul isn't part of the inner world,

that it has “left the building” even if it finds new dimensions in the outer world?

In your one but last paragraph, you say that a new form of consciousness may be emerging and it is probably naked and unprotected. I do agree with you in this. However I think you are incorrectly defining that new born consciousness as being an outer entity and having a separation from individual experience. This to me is not true to what I think and feel.

Thanks for the article and its stimulating effect.

--From Chris Weil

While reading “Living in the Future...A Psychological Response,” I noted, printed at the top of page one, the Guild Vision. “The Guild envisions a world in which the significance of each person's truth, authority and inspired vision finds fulfillment in life and community.”

"Each person's truth, authority and inspired vision" can be expressed in a number of ways, but what these terms certainly entail is some sort of fixed or at least defined human nature, the very “fixed nature and boundaries” Mr Henderson tells us are now “irrelevant.”

Perhaps Mr Henderson is confusing an extension of human capacity (one of the clear consequences of the adoption of technological gadgetry) with a fundamental restructuring of human capacity (which he seems to suggest is happening .but for which the case is by no means clear).

Anyway, it's a great subject and I hope that Mr Henderson is successful in pulling together a discussion group.

--From Emil Dockter

The article in the Threshing Floor “Living in The future... a Psychological Response” carried a lot of weight for me. I like the imaginative scope, the sacred tune, and its depth. Words like “phenomena” and “numinous presences” are new to me. For me they plow new ground. This type of discourse will open a new day for the Guild for Psychological Studies.

Response from Harry Henderson

I wish to thank Norman , Chris, and Emil for their thoughtful responses—and indeed, for “pushing back” against what I have suggested in my article last month. Thought is like a fire: it needs a spark to begin, and rubbing things together (or even rubbing someone the wrong way?) is a good way to get some sparks going. I would like to invite other readers of *The Threshing Floor* to send in their own responses to the ideas we've been discussing. I will have a response to Norman and Chris in the next issue. I'm also pleased at the interest being shown in having a discussion group in the Spring, and we hope to have it finalized and written up soon.

Harry Henderson is acknowledged as full Guild Leader

*Hal Childs,
President Board of Directors*

A group of active Guild Mentors unanimously voted to recognize in Harry Henderson the status of Guild Leader. After eight years as a Leader-in-Training, and a long journey that began as an initial contact with the Guild back in the early 1970's, a lengthy hiatus and then return, Harry petitioned the Mentors for this recognition. Without reservation the Mentors have recognized Harry's intelligence, creativity, initiative, integrity, perseverance and determination as a person and within the context of Guild seminars and the work of transformation and consciousness. We welcome Harry's commitment to the work as a full colleague.

The Guild's Board of Directors acknowledges and accepts Harry's new status as a full Guild Leader, and extends to him all the rights and responsibilities of his Leader status in relation to the Guild's seminar work.

Board Election Result 2014

In the August annual election, Guild members re-elected Hal Childs and Harry Henderson to two-year terms. At its September meeting, the board re-elected the current slate of officers. The directors and officers are Elizabeth Bremer, Secretary; Hal Childs, President; Harry Henderson, Treasurer; Jennifer Larson, Vice President; and Rita McGowan, Member at Large. Many thanks to our continuing directors!

A valley and above it forests in autumn colors.
 A voyager arrives, a map leads him there.
 Or perhaps memory. Once long ago in the sun,
 When snow first fell, riding this way
 He felt joy, strong, without reason,
 Joy of the eyes. Everything was the rhythm
 Of shifting trees, of a bird in flight,
 Of a train on the viaduct, a feast in motion.
 He returns years later, has no demands.
 He wants only one, most precious thing:
 To see, purely and simply, without name,
 Without expectations, fears, or hopes,
 At the edge where there is no I or not-I.

~ Czeslaw Milosz ~

(*The Collected Poems, 1931-1987*, tr

North West Committee presents: As the World Turns

On October 3-4th Hope Raymond will present "As the World Turns," a Fall Seminar sponsored by the North West Committee.

What huge turning is the world engaged in today? How is the universe involved in this turning from behind the worldly scene? Many of us remember a leading soap opera from the 20th century. We will be exploring the world's turning, too, but in a different context.

What needs does the universe have that might be counting on humanity to address?

How well are we fulfilling our role as a species and as individuals? What more might the universe need from us?

These are some of the questions we will be wrestling with together, as we look at ourselves in the larger context of the universe: our role as a species.

Join us at The Friends Center in Seattle on October 3rd and 4th. If interested, please contact Laura Grosvenor at 360-637-8158 for more information.

October Birthdays

Janet Thompson Petroni	Oct 1
Clare Morris	Oct 5
Steve Toby	Oct 15
Martha Maris	Oct 16
Emil Dockter	Oct 19
Patricia Trocmé	Oct 21
Andrew Getman	Oct 22
Peggy Hagen	Oct 25
Julie Gaebe	Oct 26
Jennifer Brodie	Oct 28
Nils Peterson	Oct 29
Dottie Sayward Wylie	Oct 29

Part Three : Love IX

Emily Dickinson (1830-86)

HAVE you got a brook in your little heart,
 Where bashful flowers blow,
 And blushing birds go down to drink,
 And shadows tremble so?

And nobody, knows, so still it flows, 5
 That any brook is there;
 And yet your little draught of life
 Is daily drunken there.

Then look out for the little brook in March,

When the rivers overflow, 1
0

And the snows come hurrying from the hills,
 And the bridges often go.

And later, in August it may be,
 When the meadows parching lie,

Beware, lest this little brook of life 1
5

Some burning noon go dry!

Hold The Date:

Solstice seminar at Four Springs December 5 – 7, 2014

Casting Seeds Group

If the deepening dark of the year is a mirror, what does it reflect?

Full write-up and details will be sent out by email in the next two weeks.

Project Proposals accepted

Nourishing the Soul, 2015

April 13 to 16, Monday thru Thursday

The Guild Board approved the “Nourishing the Soul” seminar planned for 2015. The proposal has a balanced budget as well as scholarship monies available for participants who might need some assistance with the fee. The deposit has been made to Bishop’s Ranch.

Casting Seeds, 2014-2015

The Guild Board approved a new project proposal for Casting Seeds, 2014-2015.

Ideas change, people change and organizations change. With regard to the Guild’s leadership training class Casting Seeds, there has been a change in its core self-defining idea.

Casting Seeds has been the Guild's leadership training class for eight years. Over the last two years the class has stabilized into a group of five dedicated people committed to leadership and leadership development within the Guild. The idea that has emerged out of the group’s work together is to now see itself as a Research and Development Laboratory within which ideas, research, events and seminars are fertilized, nourished, cultivated and performed. The group will continue to have two leader/facilitators and each of us will be project and idea researchers and generators, working together to explore soul and ways to bring soul work to the public in order to fulfill the Guild's mission and vision statements. The group will no longer be an open class for training leaders, and is now a self-contained working group within the Guild.

While the group essentially works year round, the budget for the group spans the ten-month academic year, September through June. The 2014-2015 budget is for \$11,000. The following projects are planned:

- A solstice event at Four Springs on December 5-7, 2014.
- A Report from Berlin 2014 on February 7, 2015 focused on the idea of the “Psychological Difference” and the problem of achieving a psychological understanding of *insignificance* as a looming problem of our time.
- A summer 2015 seminar with the working title: “The Inevitable Gravity of Beautiful Trouble,” exploring how the concept, or *idea*, of the *human* is changing in our modern world, and how Records work is also changing in the light of a psychology with soul.
- A discussion group open to the public to explore ideas related to the manifestation of soul in contemporary culture.
- Explore new ways to bring soul-making art processes to our Guild seminar work.

Individuals in the group have specific research and project ideas to pursue:

- Faith Mason: the idea of "true and more true" in a psychology with soul
- Harry Henderson: "releasing the human"
- Jennifer Larson: "sublating the body"
- Hal Childs: "a psychology of insignificance, meaninglessness and the death of God"
- Patricia Calcagno Stenger: "is emotion a gateway to soul's own truth?"

The change in Casting Seed's self-definition has been a natural and organic evolution. We anticipate that the group’s new self-definition will itself change over time as soul continues to re-think itself, its intentions and needs.

In the future when a leadership class is needed for new aspiring Guild leaders, the Casting Seeds Group will respond to organize and run such a class.



The Rebirth of the Four Springs Lodge art project

With the rebuilding of the Four Springs Lodge, the Phoenix like re-emergence of the "Lodge Impulse," and the dedication of the new lodge in May, the Guild Board of Directors commissioned Lisa Yount, digital artist, to produce a work that would show the old lodge and its fiery destruction and the building of the new lodge in the context of the eternal self-destruction and self-regeneration of soul. The image that you see here is what emerged from a collaboration between Lisa Yount, Hal Childs and Tim Locke. After completing some finishing touches it will soon be gifted to Four Springs.

~ Hal Childs



Donations

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

Board of Directors

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

Administrative Staff

Bob Ridder : Administrative Coordinator

Newsletter

Production & Layout Editor: Wilene Chang
Content Editors: Janet Boeth Jones & Sue Renfrew
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

