



The Threshing Floor

June 2016

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.

Celebration of Life for Judith Sweet

By Roxi Berlin

I don't know where the time has gone. We had planned to have a celebration of life for Judy last fall, but here it is almost a year since her passing. We had such great plans – a booklet of poems, a special rock headstone, a garden dedicated to her, and a celebration of life. Well, the booklet was finished, thanks to Linda Toren, and everyone who wanted one and gave me their address should have received one. The rock was moved to her grave site just last week and we will be working on a plaque to be attached. The garden is coming along – family/health issues and weather have delayed it. The centerpiece of the garden will be a heart-shaped labyrinth. Maryann Gravitt has spent many hours creating this wonderful space.

We have decided to hold the celebration of life as close to the anniversary of Judy's passing as possible. We are planning it for Saturday, June 18, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. It will be held on my property, in West Point, where her garden is located. I will send directions and other information a little later. I just wanted to get the date out to everyone so that those who can attend can make plans. I know there are several of you who live far away and will not be able to make it, but I know your thoughts will be with us during that time.

I hope that, if I have missed anyone who would be interested in this information, some of you will pass it on. The rest of the Sweet family that is not on my list should be notified, and so Karen, Walter, Mike, and Patty, if you could, pass this on.

I hope all of you are well and look forward to seeing those of you who can make it in June.



EIGHT DREAMS OF AN ELDER

By Rudy Marcus

In preparation for my 90th birthday I was asked for eight of my “big” dreams. Naturally a lot of those involved my Guild-related and Guild-stimulated activities. At the same time, Cat was asked for some family album pictures. What emerged from all that activity was a much appreciated surprise birthday gift, a book published in my name.

It is ISBN 978-1-36-796719-9. Here is the link: <http://www.blurb.com/b/6977340-eight-dreams>

In a way, this book is an autobiography in dreams. It responds to seminar questions such as "If you had had a dream like that that, how might your life have been changed?" in the *Moses Mendelsohn's Dream* on the Stories and Questions website (published as *The Meadow at the Gates of Heaven*).

My email address is

rudymarcus@storiesandquestions.com.

Take a look at my books!

“Covenant River”

“Heaven and Earth Together”

“The Meadow at the Gates of Heaven”

“Agent of Change”

Buy them here: <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/rudy7>

Jesus' Last Lonely Night

By Maureen Hartmann

Jesus spent his last night

in Caiaphas' jail

cut off

from his mother and friends.

memories from his childhood

as a refugee in Egypt came

the sounds to ears of his carpenter father's hammering

the veiled women

the gritty sting of the sand from the desert

the damp muddy smell of the Nile River.

these recollections

gave him

dawn courage

for facing Pilate.

Painting

By LynneAnne Forest



Editor's Note: LynneAnne Forest writes that she loved the poems in the May Threshing Floor. She does not have any poems to offer, but is now having fun with learning how to paint. She adds that she accepted her writing teacher's offer to display her painting, "Red Poppies in a Vase," after Van Gogh, at an art show in Santa Rosa, July 9-10, 16-17, entitled LIFE BEGINS WITH A PAINT BRUSH. The show features 18 Senior and Super Senior Artists, aged 65 to 95. The painting itself will not be for sale, but prints will be available. There will be an Artists' Reception from 1 to 4 on Saturday, July 9. Contact LynneAnne at 707 539-3809 or lynneanneforest@gmail.com for location.

You are invited to support the Guild's work

By: Elizabeth Bremer, Secretary of the Board
(L.Bremer4@aol.com)

By contributing a few hours each month as a member of the Guild Board of Directors, you can help the Guild continue to offer seminars that help individuals discover and live their conscious and vital purpose. The Board invites you to contact one of us, or send a friend our way, so that we can share more information about board service. We are recruiting candidates between now and mid-July in preparation for the annual August election.

Board members bring varied talents, experiences, and perspectives to the common purpose of helping the Guild realize its mission. We are especially seeking

individuals who do not provide compensated work in the Guild. Board work encompasses support for leaders, community outreach, and financial management within the Board's overall scope of providing strategic, policy, program, and operations oversight for the organization.

Currently, the board meets approximately every other month, on a Sunday afternoon, in the East San Francisco Bay area. Although 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. The current directors are Elizabeth Bremer, Hal Childs, Denise Dinwiddie, Harry Henderson, and Jennifer Larson. We look forward to hearing from you.

Poems

The editors invite readers to offer not only their own work but also brief poems or parts thereof that are meaningful to them. Janet Boeth Jones sends this one, as a start:

And I have felt

A presence that disturbs me with the joy

Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime

Of something far more deeply interfused,

Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,

and the round ocean and the living air,

And the blue sky, and in the mind of man;

A motion and a spirit, that impels

All thinking things, all objects of all thought,

And rolls through all things.

William Wordsworth, "Tintern Abby"

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
Marian Hopping	Jun 12
Alison Rayner-Hooson	Jun 15
Susan Renfrew	Jun 19
Paul Henri Carvalho	Jun 20
Timothy 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

I ponder attending

By Jack Arlen Russell Stone

I am having trouble with the description of the next summer seminar, "We are soul's refugees!" with the image at the top of the flyer, a silhouette of what we see in the Middle East: a line of refugees leaving war zones toward hoped-for places of safety. The seminar title states that *We* are like them. Really? The text announces that *humankind* (*en todo?*) is a kind of refugee made by soul, that we are "*forced* out of our traditional home of Meaning." The next line announces "that the old Idea has become lifeless, flat and empty." What a sad state! But just what *is* that "old Idea"? I do not know it until it is defined.

In the next paragraph, we are asked "were you ever at home at home?" or "in this world?" Although I was moved as a child to a new town every single year of my young life until a late teen, I was always provided with a "concrete home with a real address." So, where was 'soul's' home, except with me? Is it "Exile, Refugee, Wanderer, and Pilgrim all at once"? Well, why not? Aren't those the vicissitudes of Life? Yes, "truth is not settled," nor has it ever been nor ever will be. That is the beauty of life in my opinion; the future holds yet more mystery.

So, if we are asked "If the traditional forms of Meaning have dissolved," stated as a truth yet to be debated, as if it has concreteness, then I feel the seminar has already decided its own answers, and so I need not attend. In my experience, Guild seminars never had answers that I, like a sheep, was to be led by the herder to accept. What now is meant by "*guided* group discussion"? (Sorry, italics are mine.)



The Guild for Psychological Studies presents:

We are soul's refugees!

Refugee, Exile, Wanderer, Pilgrim

NOTE CHANGE TO SEVEN DAYS: June 25-July 1, 2016

Soul has given birth to itself in a new historical form, leaving behind mythology and religion and a cosmos populated by the great gods and goddesses. We, as humankind, are now a kind of refugee of soul's own making, forced out of our traditional home of Meaning. Now that the old Idea, once so precious, orienting and true, has become lifeless, flat and empty...what new truth is soul asking us to face today?

We did not choose to be born into this time. And yet here we are. We did not consciously choose the home of our childhood, and yet there we were. Growing up, were you ever at home at home? Are you even at home in this world, or does the feeling of not quite fitting in whisper in the background? Our body requires a concrete home with a real address, but what about soul's home? Perhaps now soul is Exile, Refugee, Wanderer and Pilgrim all at once—what is asked of us in order to live into a new truth when truth is not settled, but on the road?

Is the Wanderer at home in their wandering? If the traditional forms of Meaning have dissolved, then what is the Pilgrim seeking? What are the wounds of Exile and Refugee that need to be faced? Which of these four images resonates with you at this time of your life?

The Judeo-Christian myth, poetry, contemporary reality, soul-psychology and our deep experience will guide our exploration of what is required to be human in our time of soul as refugee, exile, wanderer, pilgrim.

The Guild's seminar method includes guided group discussion, silence, journal work, expressive arts, body awareness and movement, oriented to aid deep listening and response to what life and soul are asking of us now.

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, Patricia Calcagno Stenger, MA, MFT, and Harry Henderson

Fees: \$1,114 plus a non-refundable deposit 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

Stay Connected

Bob Ridder, Administrative Coordinator, is available for all inquiries by phone at (415) 561-2385, or by email at office@guildsf.org.

Send your email address to office@guildsf.org so that we can keep you connected and up-to-date on Guild events. Also be sure that we have your current mailing address so that we are able to send you this yearly edition of the newsletter. Please keep us updated with your address changes.

Mailing Address

Guild for Psychological Studies
P.O. Box 29385
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Guild Website

Visit www.guildsf.org for information about seminars and events, and to register for seminars. The website also has general information about the Guild, past issues of the Threshing Floor, relevant news, and links to resources. If you would like to post information of interest to the Guild community, please email harryhenderson51@gmail.com, our web administrator.

Guild Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/guildsf>, launched in January! If you haven't yet, please "friend" and "like" us!

Newsletter

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.

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.

Production & Layout Editor: Wilene Chang
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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.

Publishing House sales – books and CDs

Order publications on the Guild website, or contact Carina Ravelly at guildpublishing@yahoo.com.

Donations

Many thanks to our donors! Your financial support in any amount helps the Guild with seminars and other events, with the training of leaders, with outreach, and with other new and ongoing efforts. Because the Guild is a registered nonprofit organization, with 501(c)(3) status, your contribution may be tax deductible. Donations should be directed to the Guild office address, or you may donate online using the PayPal link you'll find by selecting the Make a Donation link on the main page of our website.

Volunteers

There are several people who fill necessary volunteer roles in the Guild. If you would like to be a Guild volunteer, please contact the Guild office at office@guildsf.org and let us know particular volunteer roles that appeal to you. Currently volunteers are members of the editorial staff for the Threshing Floor; members of the Board of Directors; serve as continuing education coordinator; train to serve as seminar coordinator, committee person or cook; provide transportation to/from seminars for attendees; help to catalog or research Guild archive materials; write reviews for Guild books and other publications; etc.

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.

Board of Directors

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