



The Threshing Floor

August 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.

Preface to Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass"

Submitted by Nils Peterson

This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, take off your hat to nothing known or unknown or to any man or number of men, go freely with powerful uneducated persons and with the young and with the mothers of families, read these leaves in the open air every season of every year of your life, re-examine all you have been told at school or church or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul; and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency not only in its words but in the silent lines of its lips and face and between the lashes of your eyes and in every motion and joint of your body.

From summer seminar: We are Soul's Refugees

by: Denise Dinwiddie

During the last week of June, a dozen of us gathered at Four Springs for the summer seminar, "We are soul's refugees: Refugee, Exile, Wanderer, Pilgrim." We had a rich week, contemplating our own psychological experiences of searching for home and of following our own deepest necessities. In the process, we had a dramatic look at the plight of the refugees from the civil wars in the Middle East. In the living room at

Four Spring we were surrounded by dramatic photographs of the refugees. When Harry

Henderson added to this collection a dramatic image of the earth as seen from outer space, we were welcomed into a new dimension of compassion for these political refugees. At least for me, the seminar worked on two levels: one was the level of the personal inner journey in search of home and the other the outer level of the plight of thousands of refugees who quite literally are searching for home.

We took turns writing the meditations for the opening morning circle. Here is one that I wrote, using the stories, myths, and images from the seminar.

Where is Home?

A young Icelandic man barricades himself at home until, goaded to by biting words from his mother, he realizes what his necessity is. He grabs his spear and begins his journey out from behind the stove where he has sought refuge.

A blind beggar, Bartimaeus, calls out, over the objection of a large crowd, to Jesus. Jesus hears his cry. Bartimaeus hurls off of his cloak and moves through the crowd to Jesus, crying "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me." He asks Jesus for his sight, which he receives, along with these words: "Go your way, your faith has made you well." He moves forward on a new path.

Pilgrims walk a corn labyrinth in a meadow at Four Springs, at Grace Cathedral, at Chartre. They

travel miles on the Santiago de Compostela and to Fatima and Mecca. All move to a single necessity; they travel with purpose, faith, and hope.

Refugees from Syria, from Afghanistan, from subSaharan Africa flee to Greece or to Turkey and on into Europe and all over the globe. They are driven out by a different kind of necessity: Their stories make us weep because their hardships are so severe and their expulsion deeply unjust. Yet they move forward, purposefully, on the paths that they must.

What are we to do for these wanderers, exiles, pilgrims and refugees who are family, our friends, our communities, and those we don't know but with whom we share our common home, earth? Surely we can at least affirm their journeys, hold them in compassion, and keep our feet firmly planted on our own holy paths.

What do you have to tell me about leaving home?

by: Wilene Chang

There is no home. It is you that exist.
That is your home. Your home goes with you everywhere, just as the Turtle. Where you go it goes. Your home goes where you go. You make your own home. It is what you want it to be. If it's me then it's in my eyes that I can see you through me, a wealth of good hearty organic earthy truth that doesn't come easy. Fuss with it and you're it. I want your truth to be your home. Your home is your truth. The Eyes are always watching. Know that you know your home, and you know your truth.

August Birthdays

Marilyn Baldauf Cooney	Aug 7
Skip Light	Aug 8
David Mann	Aug 9
Susan Hartz	Aug 11
William Snorf	Aug 15
LynneAnne Forest	Aug 16
Manuel Costa	Aug 20
George Stenger	Aug 20
Bob Ridder	Aug 21
Richard Christensen	Aug 23
Raiford Gaffney	Aug 25
Susan Warner Smith	Aug 25
Carnella Gordon-Brown	Aug 29
Patricia Calcagno Stenger	Aug 30



Compelled

by Barbara Lyon

It's urgent
Must not stop
Exhale
Endure
Dig down



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

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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.

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Volunteers

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