



# The Threshing Floor

January 2017

Newsletter of the Guild for Psychological Studies

Web site: [www.guildsf.org](http://www.guildsf.org)

Phone: (415) 561-2385

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

e-mail: [office@guildsf.org](mailto: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.

## Christmas 2016: Quotes to Ponder

By Gail Priestley

"The first-century context [of the nativity stories of Jesus] is not simply historical but also ... concerns the conflict between an imperial theology and a theology grounded in the God of Israel as known in the Bible and Jesus. Our twenty-first-century context is also historical and theological. What do the stories of Jesus' birth mean in our contemporary historical context?"

"We think hearing their ancient and contemporary meanings matters particularly for American Christians today. To say the obvious, America is in the powerful and perilous position of being the empire of our day. As we will see, the stories of the first Christmas are pervasively anti-imperial. In our setting, what does it mean to affirm with the Christmas stories that Jesus is the Son of God (and the emperor is not), that Jesus is the savior of the world (and the emperor is not), that Jesus is Lord (and the emperor is not), that Jesus is the way to peace on earth (and not the emperor)." [Dietrich Bonhoeffer]

"Of course these stories are not 'only' political--they are also deeply personal. They speak, and speak powerfully, about God's promises and passion.... They are about the light in the darkness, the fulfillment of our deepest yearnings, and the birth of Christ within us. They are about us--our hopes and fears. And they are about a different kind of world. God's dream for us is not simply peace of mind, but peace on earth." [*The First Christmas*, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan]

"If we want to be part of these events, Advent and Christmas, we cannot just sit there like a theater audience and enjoy all the lovely pictures. Instead, we ourselves will be caught up in this action, this reversal of all things.... When God chooses Mary as the instrument, when God wants to enter this world in the manger in Bethlehem, this is not an idyllic family occasion, but rather the beginning of a complete reversal, a new ordering of all things on earth." [Dietrich Bonhoeffer]

"The difference I see between John the Baptist and Jesus is, to use some fancy academic language, that John is an apocalyptic eschatologist. An eschatologist is somebody who sees that the problem of the world is so radical that it's going to take some kind of divine radical solution to solve it."

That type, for example, is John. God is going to descend in some sort of a catastrophic event to solve the world. There is another type of eschatology. And that's what I think Jesus is talking [about]. I'm going to call it ethical eschatology. That is the demand that God is making on us, not us on God so much as God on us, to do something about the evil in the world. In an apocalypse, as it were, we are waiting for God. And in ethical eschatology, God is waiting for us. That's, I think, what Jesus is talking about in the Kingdom of God. It's a demand for us to do something in conjunction with God. It is the Kingdom of God. But it's the Kingdom on earth of God." [John Dominic Crossan]

**Christmas & New Year Greetings**

*By Barbara Lyon*

Plea to God  
 Expose pseudo epiphany  
 Settle muddy water  
 Bring to the surface  
 This moment's truth  
 The new Birth



**From the Two of Us**

*By Nancy and Jack Russell Stone*

At this solstice, time of turning, and year's end 2016, we are looking back (because forward-looking right now is so bleak) over the many good times and hard, loving relationships and challenging, that we enjoyed in Guild-Work, and seminars at Four Springs. We don't do this just now, but often. In fact, we marvel at how we can see inside many issues in ways that are not evident to outsiders.

So, we just want to say that at this time of darkness, we still have the Three and their others to lead us through past personal darkness in order that we can face the Beast, the antichrist, now appearing. We love you who have persevered. May we now join in solidarity with our earthly ancestors, of which you have taught us, in North Dakota with the sisters of *No Face Doll* from the northeast, and *Kokopelli* from the southwest. Namaste.

**January Birthdays**

Nancy Russell Stone	Jan 1
Alyzsa B Van Til	Jan 3
Harry Henderson	Jan 5
Daniel Davis	Jan 7
James Preston	Jan 12
Selina Sweet	Jan 13
Kathy Nyhan	Jan 15
Al Braidwood	Jan 17
Pat Wrobleski	Jan 17
Coleen Higa	Jan 19
Robert Fletcher	Jan 25
Alice McHugh	Jan 25
Shirley Sullivan	Jan 26
Shirley Sait-Huneven	Jan 28

*Anxiety and Joy*  
*June 27 - July 2, 2017*

Anxiety is no stranger to many of us. It can steal the breath. It can disorient in the middle of the night or overwhelm in the midst of normal daily activities. We may feel powerless in its presence or embarrassed that it compels us toward unwanted behaviors. What is anxiety and what does it tell us about itself? What is required of us to face it and its multiple manifestations?

Jakob Boehme says, "The Holy Spirit leads us by anxiety to a new birth." What might this mean? Perhaps anxiety itself is the push of something new that wants to come into being. What orientation of heart and mind might be needed to explore the creativity that is hidden within anxiety? How might the disturbing symptoms we experience lead to greater freedom and joy?

In this seminar, we will use discussion, art, play dialogues, movement, music, silence and above all our own experience and self-reflection to explore what Soul/Life/Self has to teach us about the many sides of anxiety.

**Leaders:**

Manuel Costa, MA MFT

Jennifer Larson MA

Patricia Calcagno Stenger, MA MFT

**Location:**

The Angela Center, Santa Rosa CA

**Fee:**

\$1,100 + \$50.00 registration if application is received before February 27, 2017

\$1,200 + \$50.00 registration if application is received after February 26, 2017

For more information about the seminar please contact  
Patricia Stenger at [pstenger@comcast.net](mailto:pstenger@comcast.net) or 707-537-1511

For information about scholarships, please contact  
Manuel Costa at [mjmmc46987@aol.com](mailto:mjmmc46987@aol.com) or 408-266-2084

Register at <http://guildsf.org/online-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](mailto:office@guildsf.org).

Send your email address to [office@guildsf.org](mailto: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  
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San Francisco, CA 94129-0385

### Guild Website

Visit [www.guildsf.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
Content Editors: Janet Boeth Jones, Sue Renfrew  
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### Volunteers

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### Friends and Members

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