



The Threshing Floor

May 2017

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.

Shepherding Our Mission

By: Denise Dinwiddie, Secretary of the Board
(dendin49@comcast.net)

The time is approaching to elect members to the Guild's Board of Directors, a group that, along with others, guides and supports the Guild's ongoing mission. That the Guild continues to bring growth and richness into the life of its members is reflected in comments made during the last year in *The Threshing Floor*. Here are some of the them:

"My experience of the Records was—and still is—of a dynamic that enlivens, that forges a different consciousness."

"Would my life have been as rich without ritual, myth, and the belief that individual life has meaning without the tools of journaling and dialoguing and expressive art and movement? Of course not! These are gifts gleaned from many Guild seminars and from wrestling with the questions they posed and the emotions that came with the territory of a Guild seminar."

"Because of [the Guild] work, I am better able to know and act upon my longings and dig deep into my potential. I feel a greater sense of my inner authority—my core that guides me. I'm more willing to take risks, set out on unfamiliar ground and grow."

"I benefit enormously from both the intellectual inquiry and the experiential modes of our Guild work. The latter has been especially important in unlocking doors to the great and mysterious unconscious. My soul work stirs up curiosity, excitement, angst, fulfillment and hope."

"Guild seminars continue to have a profound influence on my life, increasing my capacity for self-reflection and objectivity—so essential to finding one's "true ground" in times of upheaval (inner or outer).

The Board's work in providing strategic, policy, program, and operations oversight is vital to the continuance of the Guild's mission and vision. Board members consider questions such as these: How can leaders be supported and encouraged to grow and create programs? How can the Guild's programs reach new participants? How can leadership be developed for the future? How can a healthy financial basis be maintained in order for the work to continue?

Currently, the board meets approximately every other month on a Sunday afternoon in the 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. The current directors are Elizabeth Bremer, Hal Childs, Denise Dinwiddie, Harry Henderson, and Jennifer Larson.

Between now and mid-July we are seeking candidates for an election to be held in August. If you are interested in participating in this vital work of the Guild, please contact me or any of the current board members. We would be glad to answer questions about board work or about the nomination/election process.

Under the Altar
by Janet Boeth Jones

One damp Saturday afternoon
in Pacifica
a snake joined our retreat.

We'd been sitting in a circle of silence,
listening to heartbeats and birdsong,
and were moving now
to find our solitary corners.
to deepen our letting go.

As I turned, at last, to leave,
the slender priest in black cassock
caught my eye
and pointed under the small wooden altar.

A small emerald green snake lay there,
curled into itself.
Delighted, I crouched and gently lifted it
from its prayers.

Cool and silky, he moved slowly, strongly
in my hands,
curling around my fingers.

I laughed as I held him.
No fretting for him,
no fear, no regret, no uncertainty.

He just was.

I rejoiced in his "Isness"
as I fed him back
into the garden's emerald grass,
and felt his freedom.



History of the *Records*
By Christopher Weil

Some years ago a couple of academics published a book (U. California Press) called *Saving the Earth**, about Creative Initiative Foundation and its predecessor organization, Sequoia Seminar. It tracks the history all the way back to Sharman from his pre U. of Chicago days through the Records seminars to his retirement and the emergence of Harry and Emilia Rathbun on one continuation track and Elizabeth Boyden Howes *et al.* on another.

This may be worth looking at for anyone wanting to know something about how it all got started.

*Gelber, Steven M., and Martin L. Cook *Saving the Earth: The History of a Middle-Class Millenarian Movement*. Berkeley: University of California Press, c1990 1990.

May Birthdays

Ruth McMullen	May 2
Rosemary Hayes	May 3
Karen Maki	May 5
Joyce Samati	May 6
Martha Ann Salt	May 8
Susan Thompson	May 8
Jon Colladay	May 9
Susan Isaac	May 14
John Lee	May 14
Hal Childs	May 17
Fred Davis	May 18
Elizabeth Naegle	May 20
Janet Boeth Jones	May 22
Nadine Hathaway	May 26
Laura Grosvenor	May 28
Sarah Eeles	May 29



HOW THINKING CHANGES OR REMAINS THE SAME AND WHY IT DOES OR DOESN'T; AN ENIGMA THAT SEEMS TO PROVIDE FERTILE SOIL FOR NEGATIVE FEELINGS OR APATHY IN THE AGE OF TRUMP.....

By Nancy Russell Stone

Okay, I admit it, I am in what is not so fondly called my dotage. The word is one I rarely use (aloud), but often feel and express to those near and dear to me. I am grateful that I am able to express what I feel to a few friends and (certain) family members. I am also grateful I can “follow the dots” and arrive at conclusions. Household “newsfeed” is our local newspaper, several magazines, including *Time*, and, importantly, three women of whom we have become fond, inviting them into our home. Their number reminds me of “the three of GPS,” a term we old-timers use to describe Elizabeth, Sheila, and Luella, whom I sometimes compare with these times that offer us the words of Amy Goodman, Rachel Maddow, and Elizabeth Warren; I often ask myself if the energy and wisdom of these women are great enough to neutralize that dark force that I tack up on Donald J. Trump. I use the word tack intentionally because I have a cork board onto which I often place articles and photos of interest, using thumbtacks to secure them to the cork. Last week, as I chose part of a photo of DJT to use as a target, I thought of the image of Jesus, “attached” to a cross. With this thought in mind, I chose to “skewer” the photo in the eyes, my way of understanding the thinking and actions of the person who is often referred to as the potus. It took me some time to figure out just what this word stood for (part of the dotage). I purposely do not capitalize the word. for reasons I do not yet totally understand, but attribute it to his blindness and rank unawareness married to what I term an inherent lack of consciousness. I have a fantasy of a group of psychiatrists and psychologists (Jungians, of course!) being charged with diagnosing how and why he does and says what he does, often times without realization of how the listener or reader interprets the words that he uses and configures. I have asked several people whose interpretations I trust if they feel that “the donald” cannot read and/or comprehend the printed words. Unfair?. Is it possible that he might have a learning disability? Could it be that his blindness and apparent stupidity and/or lack of focus is a symptom of such a condition? Having written way too many words (translation: my thoughts) I will take my personal feelings to “my time of letting go” of the trials and tribulations that lead to a feeling of apathy.

God Save Our Country

God save our country! Please lift us up in these times of sorrow.

Help us Lord to keep our sights on you for a brighter tomorrow.

Lord please keep us all praying on bended knees.

So we will stay humble while our sons and daughters are fighting overseas.

God save our country! Please raise our hopes and diminish our fears.

God please keep us strong through all the death and tears.

Help us Lord to be there for everyone both big and small.

Because we don't know when anyone of us might fall.

God save our country! Please keep our land safe and free.

Help us Lord to be all that you would have us to be.

Lord, touch our sick ones and lift their spirits too.

God please direct us to do as you would have us to do.

God save our country! Please protect our little ones. Let them grow freely and touch their sweet young souls.

Send your angels down from heaven to keep them laughing and happy too.

They are our future, so they need all our love to see them through.

God save our country! Please be with our leaders as they make decisions everyday!

God help us to never be indifferent because we know Lord that is not your way.

God we pray that you will heal our souls and keep the love for our sisters and brothers.

Please help us to keep our empathy in our hearts always for each other!

By Suzanne Lauder

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Second International Workshop

**International Society for Psychology
as the Discipline of Interiority**

Psychological Interiority



**July 22 & 23, 2017
Chestnut Residence and Conference
Centre Toronto, Canada**

Workshops

- David Miller “Evil – A Paragon of Luster”
Greg Mogenson “*Peripeteia du Mal* (a poem by Theoreticus Anonymous)”
Michael Whan “Chiasmus & the so-called ‘*coniunctio*’ of the Transference”
Pamela Power “Interiorizing Feeling”
Michael Caplan “The ‘Outside’ of Psychology & the Discipline of Interiority”
Colleen Hendrick El-Bejjani “The Obsolescence of Gender Identity
in Light of Animus Psychology as Being”
Samina Salahuddin “Dissociation versus Interiority”
Peter White “Interiority & the Garden of Eden”

<http://www.ispdi.org>

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 or 707-537-1511

For information about scholarships, please contact
Manuel Costa at 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.

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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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.

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Order publications on the Guild website, or contact Carina Ravely 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

Jennifer Larson, President
Hal Childs, Vice President
Harry Henderson, Treasurer
Denise Dinwiddie,
Secretary
Elizabeth Bremer, Member of
the Board

