



The Threshing Floor

June 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.

You are invited to support the Guild's work

By *Elizabeth Bremer*

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 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. We look forward to hearing from you.

Unearthing Four Springs History

By *Harry Henderson*

As part of the multi-year process of developing and implementing a Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) for Four Springs (including the Guild's portion of the property), a variety of surveys have had to be completed. These include assessing the timber resources themselves, but also geology (such as for potential runoff) and the possible presence of endangered species. (Recorded Spotted Owl calls had to be played several times to see if any of the rare birds answer!)

Another part of the process involves an archaeology report. This includes contact with native American groups in the area (mainly Pomo) and a review of previous archaeological surveys. According to the report "at the time of Euro American contact, the people living in the general area of this NTMP spoke Northern Wappo" and the two main groups/villages were Northern Wappo and Lake Miwok. No significant archaeological remains from either Native Americans or later settlers were found.

The report goes on to historic times, referring to logging in the early 20th century probably done in connection with developing the Western Mine. The original main lodge building was built in 1939 by a ship captain named Sheveland. Elizabeth Howes purchased it in 1955. In 1969 she purchased more property in the lower area, possibly to forestall plans to build a trailer park.

People who have been attending Guild seminars at Four Springs for a number of decades may be interested in how the place was built up over the years, as noted in these excerpts from the "Archaeological

Timeline."

- 1939 Sheveland builds estate
- 1955 Howes purchases Sheveland estate
- 1956 Cabins: Moon, Sibbald, Howes, Moon Bearer, Tonso, Wind God, Corn Maiden, Sun House
Adam and Eve (bath house)
Lodge bedrooms added
- 1957 Library
- 1960 Art room
- 1961 Rainbow House
- 1962 Little Fox
- 1964 Living Room (Cabin)
Big Star (built with timbers from Key System railroad!)
- 1965 Library expansion (book sales room)
Meditation Room
- 1970 New pool
- 1972 Dryden Phelps room added to library
Monster Slayer & Child Born of Water (duplex cabin)
Corn Maiden rolled downhill to present site
Sun House rolled downhill to present site (these moves to make room for Seminar room)
- 1973 Seminar Room
Fire in lodge living room fireplace; repairs and basement redone and pantry enclosed.
- 1974 New fireplace in lodge
- 1975 Lodge back porch replaced
- 1976 Kitchen remodeled
- 1977 New cabana and fireplace
Fire pump house and water tank
- 1980 Cabana solar panels
New roofs on library, art room, and Adam and Eve
- 1981 Pump house and second water tank
- 1982 Gibbons (cabin)
- 2011 Fire destroys lodge
- 2014 New lodge completed

If you would like to read the complete report, it can be downloaded or viewed at <http://guildsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NTMP-Archaeology-report-2017-01-08-165353.pdf>

About *Saving the Earth* and The Guild

By D Andrew Kille

I noticed the reference to Gelber and Cook's *Saving the Earth* in the current Threshing Floor, and thought that some of your readers might like to know that the book is available in full on-line at <http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft1870045n&brand=ucpress>.

It was while working on a presentation for the Society of Biblical Literature's Psychology and Biblical Studies group on the history of the Sharman method and its inheritors (the Guild, Walter Wink's *Transforming Bible Study* and *The BibleWorkbench*) that I discovered *Saving the Earth*. Anyone interested in reading the study in full can contact me at revdak@revdak.com, and I'll be glad to send them a copy.

Editor's Note: Andrew Kille's study, unfortunately too long to include here, is a thoughtful history of Sharman, Elizabeth Boyden Howes and her work first at The Pines and then with the Guild, as well as Walter Wink's work and the St Louis group. We recommend it.

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

Gratitude for the Guild

By Rosemary Hayes

Once upon a time, 1969 to be precise, I attended a U.C. Berkeley conference on "Myth and Fantasy," where I was utterly captivated by two old South African Tales that, like the best of stories, were nuggets of knowing. I then began volunteering weekly as a storyteller in local fourth and fifth grade classes, finding unending delight in those eager and attentive faces. Then, in 1971--oh joy and gladness-- I discovered the Guild and was drawn into its absorbing probing of the *Records* and other texts.

I adapted a loose form of this way of inquiry in discussions following the telling of the stories, assuring the classes that there would be absolutely no testing or grading, and that I was primarily interested in what they thought, felt, and saw. To clarify this, initially, I would ask, "Do you know you have a widescreen 3D movie inside your head?" This evoked surprise and puzzlement. There was more astonishment when they realized that only one viewer was in each audience.

Emphasis on the singularity and variety of their imaginations seemed to encourage better attention and fuller responses to others' ideas, as well as the ready participation of students who always had to struggle with academic work.

I know many teachers lead lively and fruitful discussions, but, for me, with no training or experience, I am forever grateful to Elizabeth, Sheila, and Luella for sterling examples of questioning, as well as to those competent and creative leaders who followed them.

Every time in a class when I urgently declared, "Don't ever stop asking questions!" I was met with stunned silence. Does our elementary education foster a shame of one's ignorance? Or is this just too much to ask? Guild participants always wallowed in the questions, wrestled with them, and never lost the excitement and compelling wonder of that value-laden world. For me, that was truly living happily ever after.

Thank you for the Guild

By Wilene Chang

Here is a short story about how I learned about the Guild.

Long ago in my teens I wanted to learn the guitar from a friend. She mentioned John Prince, her teacher, who at the time was living in SF. I met with him few times at his home when I was attending George Washington High school. Years went by, I met up with John about 10 years later again at his home in south SF for more music lessons.

I questioned this picture of the Tree drawing that was on his door. It was in that moment that the birth of the Guild came to life for me. He would encourage me to sign up and go. It didn't matter who you were, just go and not hesitate.

I attended my first weekend seminar in the late eighties before Sheila Moon passed away. The seminar focused on the Australian Aboriginal Myth. It was so moving that I didn't know what to say or do. I was so gripped inside myself with emotions that I would hide away to cry.

After attending several weekend seminars, I was encouraged to attend the *Records*. These days were the longest days of my life. I didn't know what I was getting into. I was fearful and surprised. It was like attending church everyday except you were expected to be a scholar and question the text for its authenticity.

Now I question everything in my life for authenticity. How do I know or don't know is the question that lives on because of the Guild work that is still alive. I owe my life to the Guild work with deep appreciation for the founders, the leaders, and the staffs for making this possible.

Thank you for these years of growth and learning. It's a gift of a lifetime of work that never ends.



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* (apoem by Theoreticus Anonymous)"
Michael Whan "Chiasmus & the so-called conjunction 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.

Production & Layout Editor: Wilene Chang
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Distribution: Bob Ridder

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

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

