

The Threshing Floor

September 2017

Newsletter of the Guild for Psychological Studies

Web site: www.guildsf.org

Phone: (415) 561-2385

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

e-mail: 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.

The Passing of My Husband

Lewis Bremer IV

by Elizabeth Bremer

Many of you have this news already, but I'd like to let the larger community know that my husband died in May of ALS, after living with it for almost a year. Our journey with ALS was a struggle yet it was an exceedingly rich time in our relationship. Lewis chose only comfort assistance and finished his life in a way that seemed peaceful to our daughter and me, who were with him at home.

Lewis appreciated the Guild's work and supported my engagement with it. I had been active with the Guild before we met. Soon after, Lewis decided to check out this passion of mine for himself. Lewis attended a City Records seminar and several weekends in the 1980s. These were pivotal experiences for aspects of his journey and gave us a foundation for conversations of depth and growth. Later the two of us and our daughter participated in annual Kinder Weekends. Lewis especially loved the process of co-writing a personalized version of a folktale for our daughter's coming-of-age ritual.

Lewis met his final illness with great grace, humor and kindness. I feel deep sadness and enduring joy. There will be a memorial gathering on September 24th in Walnut Creek. Let me know if you'd like information to attend. Lbremer4@aol.com.



Today's Words

Here Am I,
This I,
Now.

Wisdom Speaks:

Nothing Belongs more,
is Needed more,
is Loved more
by Creation.

Find that Reality
in your Breath.
Welcome it
in your Anxiety.

They know.
So do you.

Be your Knowing
until Joy comes.

by Elizabeth Bremer, 7/1/17
at "Anxiety and Joy" seminar

Mac McCaslin

by Jack Russell Stone

So long, old friend, Mac McCaslin. I hope you will welcome me in the CCC, the competent caretaker community, some day when I am ready. Your devotion to the well-being of the Guild and its venues, as well as to your life's companion, Clare, will never be forgotten. Beginning at The Pines, the two of you were the stalwarts who impressed many who tried to follow your example. We loved you then and always will.

Nancy Owens Gallagher

Nan Gallagher, artist and Guild member for many years, died August 23. This is from a message to their friends from her husband John:

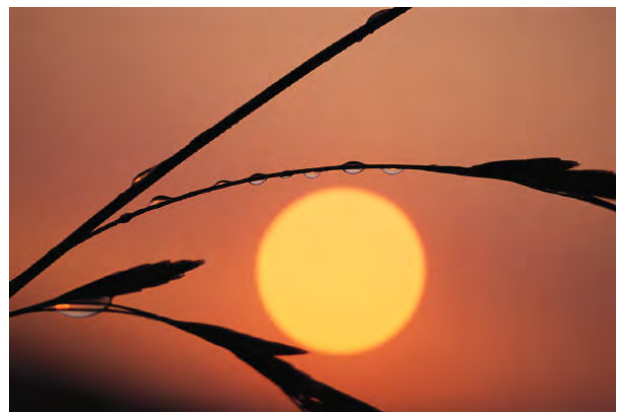
After a long and difficult struggle with C.O.P.D., Nan's last days and her end were peaceful, and we were together until the end. I feel very thankful for the loving care given her by Hospice by the Bay and by the nurses and aides here at The Tamalpais health center.

Nan's wishes were that there be no memorial service and that I scatter her ashes under the Golden Gate Bridge. Some sixty years ago she sailed through the Golden Gate from Hawaii, beginning her new great adventure. I am eternally grateful to have been no small part of that adventure.

When asked about donations in her name, John replied that if people wish to make a contribution, support of Hospice by the Bay or of any program that supports the teaching of the arts in public schools, which were dear to her heart, would be appreciated.

September Birthdays

Judith Peterson	Sep 2
Dean Olson	Sep 3
Charlotte Brown	Sep 5
John Hopkins	Sep 5
Damilia Loupy	Sep 11
Eliane Wilson	Sep 11
Jon Orvik	Sep 13
Elli Norris	Sep 15
Wilene Chang	Sep 22
Patricia Wilson	Sep 26
Howard Lewis	Sep 29
Robin Taylor	Sep 29



From the seminar: Anxiety & Joy

By: Hal Childs

Anxiety hates the river.
Joy is the river.

Leap into the arms of anxiety;
make love (loud, noisy, unashamed)

Joy will kiss you like a dog
(happy, sloppy, wet).



SAVE THE DATE! JULY 7 – 15, 2018
2018 GUILD FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL STUDIES SUMMER SEMINAR:
ANXIETY AND JOY
Roslyn Retreat Center
Richmond, Virginia

Every two years, Hal Childs (PhD, MDiv, MFT) and Patricia Stenger (MFT) from the Guild for Psychological Studies in California, guide a 9-day retreat through St. Mark's Church on Capitol Hill. Between July 7 and July 15, the seminar for 2018 will explore **Anxiety and Joy**. These seminars are spiritual in nature rather than religious, honoring all who want to grow in their truth.

Anxiety steals the breath -- it disorients us in the middle of the night or overwhelms us in the middle of normal daily activities. We may feel powerless in its presence or embarrassed that the experience of anxiety compels us toward unwanted behaviors. How are we to face anxiety and its manifestations? What is anxiety and what does it have to tell us about itself?

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 the new being. What orientation of heart and mind might be needed to explore the creativity that is within anxiety? What might be the relationship between the disturbing symptoms we experience and 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. Participation in any of these activities is voluntary. There will be ample free time to explore, hike, and gather with other participants.

All applicants new to Guild seminars are asked to accompany their application with a letter stating why they wish to attend and any pertinent information about prior study and experience around spiritual issues. No prior experience is needed to attend. You are asked only to bring yourself to a circle of seekers to come to a fuller expression of your own truth.

For a registration form and additional information, please contact Susan Thompson at susanlynnthompson@gmail.com. **We will accept 18 participants to keep the circle small and early registration ensures you have a spot.** Partial scholarships are available. Please indicate your interest in a scholarship to both Betty Foster (bettywesfoster@earthlink.net) and Susan Thompson (susanlynnthompson@gmail.com).

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
San Francisco, CA 94129-0385

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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Content Editors: Janet Boeth Jones, Sue Renfrew
Distribution: Bob Ridder

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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.

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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.

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