

The Threshing Floor

October 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.

Little Gidding

What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from...

„,And any action
Is a step to the block, to the fire, down the sea's
throat Or to an illegible stone: and that is where
we start.
We die with the dying:
See, they depart, and we go with them.
We are born with the dead:
See, they return, and bring us with them...

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time...

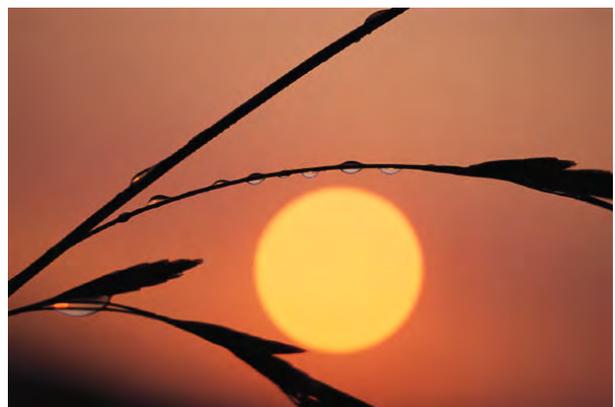
--T.S. Eliot

*The job is to seek mystery, evoke mystery, plant a
garden in which strange plants grow and mysteries
bloom. The need for mystery is greater than the
need for an answer.*

-- Ken Kesey

October Birthdays

Janet Thompson Petroni	Oct 1
Clare Morris	Oct 5
Steve Toby	Oct 15
Martha Maris	Oct 16
Emil Dockter	Oct 19
Patricia Trocmé	Oct 21
Andrew Getman	Oct 22
Peggy Hagen	Oct 25
Julie Gaebe	Oct 26
Jennifer Brodie	Oct 28
Nils Peterson	Oct 29
Dottie Sayward Wylie	Oct 29



*I am certain of nothing but the holiness of the heart's
affections and the truth of the imagination.*

-- John Keats



Sweet Darkness
A silent solstice retreat
Four Springs, Middletown CA
December 1 - 3, 2017

When your eyes are tired
the world is tired also.
When your vision has gone
no part of the world can find you.
Time to go into the dark
where the night has eyes
to recognize its own.

~David Whyte

Offered by: The Casting Seeds
Research Group

Dates: Friday, December 1, 2017 at
7:30PM until Sunday, December 3, 2017
at 1PM

Fee: \$350 plus a nonrefundable deposit
of \$50. Scholarships are available.

Location: Four Springs, Middletown CA

To register, contact the Guild for
Psychological Studies, PO Box 29385,
San Francisco CA 94129-0385
Or register online with PayPal at
[http://guildsf.org/online-seminar-
registration/](http://guildsf.org/online-seminar-registration/)

The sun, through its growing absence, announces the darkening of winter. Is your vision of the world tired and bleak? Is vision gone? Time to go into the confines of aloneness, and recognize what is too small for you, and seek what brings you alive.

During this solstice seminar, we will immerse ourselves in "sweet darkness," awaiting what looks back at us. What attitudes no longer fit, are in fact already outgrown? Is there a hidden vitality in the sweet darkness, ready to come home?

We will approach this darkness with seminar dialogue, art, music, movement, journaling and silence.



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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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.

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