

The Threshing Floor

December 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.

December

by Nils Peterson

A low morning sun threw fluttering shadows against my window.
I thought, the angels have come.

Maybe it was just small birds, feasting on winter berries, but I thought angels, and thought they've whispered

in our ears, for something grows inside.
Our walks change with the weight of it.
Our eyes reach out for what is small,

tender, shining, Something wants to be born into this world, and we grow inward and heavy with it.

Fire Safety at Four Springs

By Timothy Locke

As noted in last month's Threshing Floor, the recent devastating fires in Napa, Sonoma, and Lake counties spared Four Springs. After the Valley Fire two years ago that reached Sheveland Road and the Tubbs Fire last month that came toward Four Springs over the top of Mount St. Helena, we are grateful Four Springs is still standing and able to host the Guild seminar in December.

We are currently in the midst of the first sustainable timber harvest at Four Springs, a joint project of the Guild and Four Springs Seminars. Perhaps the main benefit of a healthier forest at Four Springs will be fire safety. Work on the harvest began just as the fires were approaching and we feared this project, years in the making, would be a week too late!

Though we hope forest fires never come so close again, we will be better prepared, if they do, with less brush in the woods, sprinklers throughout the new lodge, and the new hydrant next to the library.



Logging truck with the sustainable harvest project, November 1, 2017

**Nourishing the Soul, March 26 to 29 at
Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg, California**

We have been shipwrecked by a strange island, and though we've had to swim our way ashore through stormy seas, when we arrive, we find our clothes are as bright and neat and dry as when we first bought them. A new start, then. The island seems different to each of us. Our own natures make it so. It is full of strange noises, some sweet, some ominous, and full of strange creatures, from monster to mage. Our exploration of this magic place may be like walking around a labyrinth into the mystery that is ourselves.

The Tempest was written at the end of Shakespeare's creative life when he was in full command of his creative powers. Its concerns are of beginnings and endings, but its emphasis is on ending and what that might mean. The choice for Prospero is between revenge or redemption. What is the more satisfying ending?

We will explore these mysteries through art, music, poetry, drama, and through the good talk that we have shared all these years.

Date: Monday, March 26 – 7:00pm &
Thursday, March 29 – 12:00pm

Place: Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg

Leaders: Maureen Draper, Nils Peterson, and
Sue Renfrew.

Fees: \$700, which includes \$50.00 registration fee.

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

December Birthdays

John Petroni	Dec 4
Hope Raymond	Dec 11
Dorinda Hawk	Dec 14
Carina Ravely	Dec 16
Jennifer Larson	Dec 17
Angie Papastefan	Dec 17
Linda Missouri	Dec 19
Elizabeth Chandler	Dec 20
Fran Sheridan	Dec 23
Elizabeth Bremer	Dec 31

A Year

This year is not wider in time, but has a bite of movement slower than joy, faster than cure, leading towards darkness as deep as any night.

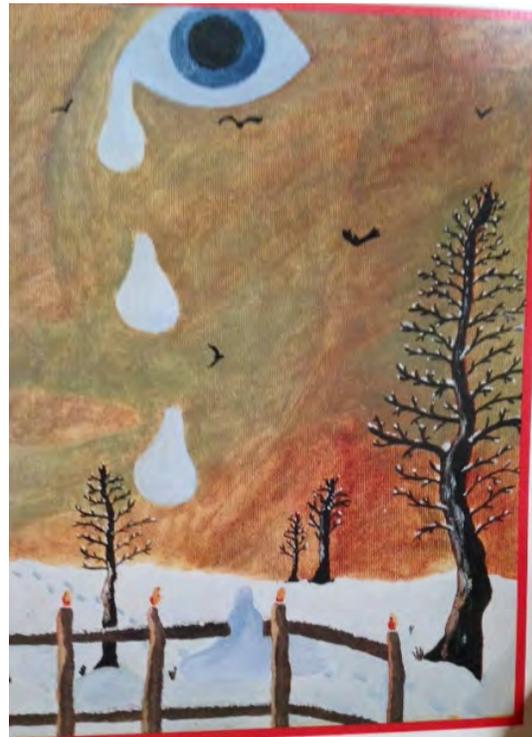
I walked Greece again. Sounion's gloried white was smudged. Only asphodels stood brief and pure. This year is not wider in time, but has a bite.

Ancient temples persist, with seas, but human blight goes faster than they. Death alone is secure, leading towards darkness as deep as any night.

I worry words, trying to help them come right, to be voices of need. It does not go. I abjure. This year is not wider in time, but has a bite.

Planet and I are older. We should have a right to be told of our fate. Nobody seems sure. This year is not wider in time, but has a bite leading towards darkness deeper than any night.

Sheila Moon "Scarlet Incantations"





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.

Production & Layout Editor: Wilene Chang
Content Editors: Janet Boeth Jones, Sue Renfrew
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 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

