



# The Threshing Floor

January 2018

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.

## JANUARY

By Nils Peterson

Sunday morning. January. Newspaper  
filled with Herodish things, yet the sun rises  
above the cold earth. Roots stir.  
Somewhere there's music.

I wrote this a few years ago.

*How could the angel who left  
the immensity of Always to whisper  
in the ear of the girl child  
go back to the old chorus  
with the other angels?  
So he stayed around watching,  
living like us in before and after,  
now and again humming  
to himself a new song.*

This year I've been thinking about this angel,  
wondering how he's getting along as he watches us  
fumble along on our way. It must be hard,  
but I don't think he's changed his mind.



## 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, 6:30 pm dinner through  
Thursday, March 29 – 12:30 lunch.

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 at <http://guildsf.org/online-seminar-registration/>

## **Fusion with Fecundity**

*By Maureen Hartmann*

Light in the mind of Stephen Hawking  
In spite of his body's prison  
uncovering possibly  
on October 16, 2017  
two neuron stars conjugating  
at the beginning of time  
breaking our milieu's chains  
fertilizing the world  
conceiving creation more than  
thirteen billion years ago.  
Oh, the fertility of nature  
for failing and frail humanity.

## **January Birthdays**

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Nancy Russell Stone  | Jan 1  |
| Alyzsa Van Til       | Jan 3  |
| Harry Henderson      | Jan 5  |
| Daniel Davis         | Jan 7  |
| James Preston        | Jan 12 |
| Selina Sweet         | Jan 13 |
| Kathy Nyhan          | Jan 15 |
| Al Braidwood         | Jan 17 |
| Pat Wroblewski       | Jan 17 |
| Coleen Higa          | Jan 19 |
| Robert Fletcher      | Jan 25 |
| Alice McHugh         | Jan 25 |
| Shirley Sullivan     | Jan 26 |
| Shirley Sait-Huneven | Jan 28 |



## **The Way It Is**

There's a thread you follow. It goes among  
things that change. But it doesn't change.  
People wonder about what you are pursuing.  
You have to explain about the thread.  
But it is hard for others to see.  
While you hold it you can't get lost.  
Tragedies happen; people get hurt  
or die; and you suffer and get old.  
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.  
You don't ever let go of the thread.

--William Stafford



## **The Way of Life**

A sound man's heart is not shut within itself  
But is open to other people's hearts:  
I find good people good,  
And I find bad people good  
If I am good enough;  
I trust men of their word,  
And I trust liars  
If I am true enough;  
I feel the heart beats of others  
Above my own  
If I am enough of a father,  
Enough of a son.

--Laotzu, sixth century BC Chinese philosopher.  
Translated Witter Bynner.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:bettywesfoster@earthlink.net)) and Susan Thompson ([susanlynnthompson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@guildsf.org).

Send your email address to [office@guildsf.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Publishing House sales – books and CDs

Order publications on the Guild website, or contact Carina Ravely at [guildpublishing@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

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