

The Threshing Floor

October 2018

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.

From David Garrett's autobiography

From Priscilla Garrett

When the interior core pointed the way, there was confidence in my pursuits. If they were questioned by doubters, I did not have to apologize for them. To satisfy rationalistic inquiries, I did not have to explain them. The most important motivation was to be true to the Self, often going against prevailing wisdom, my own as well as others'. Of such a life, universal in its application, the poet Josephine Johnson wrote:

*Then may it be said of you:
Behold, he had done one thing well,
And he knows whereof he speaks,
And he means what he has said,
And we may trust him.
This is sufficient for a life.
-Year's End*



Thoughts About David

from Susan Warner Smith

David and I laughed many years later, recalling my first therapy session with him. We remembered how I had arrived defensive, hardened and so angry, even though a week prior I had been moved to my core after attending my first Guild Seminar. It was entitled "Three Old Testament Women," and was led by Sadie Gregory and David Garrett. It was at that seminar that I knew that there might be hope for my life and that I wanted David to be my therapist. It was around 1970 and I was in my early twenties. Back then I had absolutely no inkling or any imagination as to what my life would be like or who I would become at age seventy-two after working with David for many years. He experienced and nurtured something in me that I had no idea existed. It was his encouragement and at times, his demanding spirit that helped me become who I am today. It has now been twenty four years that I have been leading a study discussion group in Eugene, Oregon, helping to bring forward the meaningful work of the Guild for Psychological Studies and Psyche and the Sea. It is with deep gratitude that I remember David.

In Gratitude

From Marilyn Baldauf Cooney

A few thoughts and reflections upon the loss of my friend and mentor:

When I was first led to David Garrett's door in 1980, I was in a state of deep despair, angry at God and terribly isolated. Through David's love,

commitment, and faith, I learned to face Darkness, follow my dreams, and find meaning. Under his tutelage I attended and led "Psyche and the Sea" seminars at Asilomar, based on the foundation established at Four Springs over many years.

With others who became dear friends, I participated in a Leaders' Training Group, which continued for ten years, meeting regularly in David's home.

The rich discussions we had touched every aspect of our lives and transformed us all. At the same time, I attended many Guild seminars over twenty years, and so I benefited from various perspectives on the Records, myths, and Jungian psychology.

After David retired, I continued to visit him and Priscilla in Santa Rosa, marveling as they maintained their dignity and love for each other during David's long illness. I am glad he is now at peace.

I can scarcely imagine how my life would have unfolded had I not met David Garrett at that critical juncture.

I felt accepted and challenged, pushed back upon myself, forced to find faith, and opened at last to love.

I grew in Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind, in love of Self and of Neighbor.

The result is the life of Joy I experience today.

David James Garrett Obituary

David James Garrett left this life on September 9, 2018. He was born in London, England on March 16, 1928. Early childhood years were spent in Maricabo and Caracas, Venezuela. At age eight he went to two boarding schools, one in England and then, due to WWII, to Ridley Colleges, another boarding school in St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada. After graduating from Toronto University, he went to Cambridge, Massachusetts where he did post graduate work at Harvard Divinity School and also attended the Swedenborgian Theological School.

Following 19 years as a minister in churches in St. Louis, Missouri, Wilmington, Delaware and El Cerrito, California, he changed careers. He studied at the Guild for Psychological Studies in San

Francisco and became a Jungian therapist for thirty years. He led seminars for the Guild briefly and then for twenty years for a group called Psyche and the Sea, both religious and psychologically oriented.

After retirement he wrote his life story titled Labyrinth: Awakening Descent into Unknowing, Transformation. Fourteen years ago he and his wife moved to Spring Lake Village, a continuing care retirement community in Santa Rosa, CA. There they continued their travels and their enjoyment of the outdoors.

His family includes his wife of 66 years Priscilla Alden Garrett and their five children, Mark Andrew (Cathy), Christopher John (Therese), Daniel Peter (Mary), Timothy Magdden and Andrea Madeleine Wallace (Jim). There are also eleven grandchildren and soon to be ten great grandchildren. David has left us but his challenging spirit and devotion to LIFE will continue to live in the hearts of his family, friends and clients.

His body was sent to the University of San Francisco Medical School's Willed Body Program for the study of his Alzheimer's disease to help end this illness.

There will be several small gatherings of friends and relatives to celebrate David's life, as he did not want a funeral service.

"Bloom where you're planted!"

Watercolor by Maris Pravata Helfrich, Galveston, TX,



Records: Dead and Alive?

by Hal Childs

It has been said that “God is dead.” But that metaphor is itself a dead end, it stops short of appreciating the historical situation. “God” was never an object or a being that could die. But the truth and reality of what was called God was something that could change. It is as if the public, cultural, and taken-for-granted Zeitgeist that was God-infused evaporated, distilled, itself into a new form of consciousness that left us wondering if indeed God had died. The new public, cultural, and taken-for-granted consciousness that emerged was Reason, the scientific world view of materialism, physical cause and effect, and a humanism in which the human person is the basis and agent of history and culture. Within the modern worldview, God recedes to a private, personal matter of faith: God is no longer the public taken-for-granted ground of reality. We know that the universe began with the Big Bang, not with a god. We trust in physics and quantum mechanics to describe the world order; we believe that we as free democratic individuals are the masters of our own fate. This new consciousness, new in the 18th and 19th centuries, not so new anymore, known also as a kind of secular historical materialism, is what gave rise to the quest for the historical Jesus and what we in the Guild have known as the Records of the Life and Teachings of Jesus seminar.

But what if now the historical Jesus is dead? (Of course, the actual man Jesus, if there was such a man, has been dead for two thousand years, but that is not what I mean.) What if the idea of the historical Jesus of Nazareth was itself the creation of the modern historical form of consciousness? Prior to the 18th century, no one was interested in an historical Jesus. It was the divine God-man Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, God’s obedient unto death Son, who was the center and circumference of Western Christian civilization. It was the Christ that was the reality and truth that permeated public cultural life. Only with the rise of critical historical methods and the fading of theological truth did the mind begin to think about an “historical Jesus.” Of course, the critical examination of the historical Jesus helped to liberate the understanding of Jesus’ life and his teachings from narrow and restrictive Christian moralism and piety. This was a tremendous gain, but did it go far enough? Did it truly liberate the Christian truth into a new form, or did it tend to harden it in a supposed historically grounded empiricism?

Today, culture has taken a new bewildering turn, dominated by technology and artificial intelligence. We fly into space and look back at ourselves, a big blue ball suspended in nothing. Matter itself has dissolved into electrons, neutrons, and protons, and a dizzying array of sub-atomic particles, and physics itself understands that the observer plays a role in what is observed. There is a new self-consciousness as we reflect ourselves endlessly in new forms of media. It is as if reality were no longer grounded in the solidity of theology or science, and has become a house of mirrors, an endless stream of reflections and interpretations. We have become aware of our awareness, and now our collective story has become like the tail-eating serpent, ouroboric. There is no longer a universal story, but rather a host of stories that create themselves. As Jung noted, in relation to the psyche, or soul, there is no Archimedean point outside of our story by which to evaluate the story. The story itself is our reality and the story creates itself as we work at telling the story. We are inescapably part of the story, and it creates us as we create it. Now we can recognize that the “historical Jesus” was a story told by a particular historical time, and it continues to transform itself in the telling. Is there a new approach to the story of the “historical Jesus” that would include us in the telling? Would it be possible to transcend the theological and historical approaches to the Jesus story, and in the process, find a new story that creates us while we ourselves are the story tellers? Perhaps we are the tail-eating serpent as we deconstruct ourselves and re-create ourselves in the midst of our unfolding stories. What new values are emerging in the 21st century? Are the Records dead or alive, or are they dead *and* alive?

In the fall of 2019 (Sept 27 – Oct 6), there will be a “new Records” seminar in which we will undertake such an exploration. Whether you have never been to a Records seminar or have been to many you are invited.

The Stories We Tell

Dates: April 15 - 18, 2019

Location: Bishop's Ranch
Healdsburg, CA

Leaders: Manuel Costa, M.A. LMFT

Jennifer Morgan Mansfield, M.A.

Patricia Calcagno Stenger, M.A. LMFT

The Denver Guild

By Shirley Sullivan

Free, mobile, and in readiness

The will, known beforehand, is not the will

...that which crosses my willful path, violently...

Why not become totally fire?

These words, the words of some of the world's great thinkers, linger on. After decades of "Records Seminars," we don't always use these quotes, but the experience itself has shaped many of us, and changed our lives.

Words, music, and small movements greet the day. And silence. Silence is built in. It has made me hungry for itself, after more than 25 years of doing this. I am shaped by silence, almost as much as by the words of Jesus that form the backbone of our experience together.

We speak in the circle, each from our unique point—not on the path, for that would imply a goal to be reached—but each from our own point of light. This grows and dims as we listen and try to give voice to what is moving inside. Sometimes our hands are closest to our hearts' wisdom. How do you paint *the heavens were rent asunder*? How can a broken heart allow life to enter?

What I have learned through this study of the life and teachings of Jesus is not that he was the only son of God, but that his story is my story, our story. What was available to him is available to us. All we have to do is *pick up our beds and walk*. A tough challenge. We are learning the art of risk, of daring to open to what has been called Other, of realizing that Other is none other than ourselves. What better training for being in the world?

From Selina Sweet

Aware that the political is off limits for the Threshing Floor - I nonetheless find it truly and absolutely weird (strange (estranged?) that in the midst of profound acts (speech and the written word too) revealing the abject poverty and blunt assaults on soul that have already happened and recklessly continue nonstop in tidal wave proportions in practically every millimeter of our collective American life and Earth home - that a great (and for me awful and crazy making) Silence reigns on these pages. "The Guild for Psychological Studies." Even Jesus threw the money changers out of the temple. Where does the temple begin and end, I wonder?

2019 Guild for Transformational Studies Retreat in Spain

The Spiritual Journey and Its Symbols (Availability: 8 participants)

June 9-15, 2019

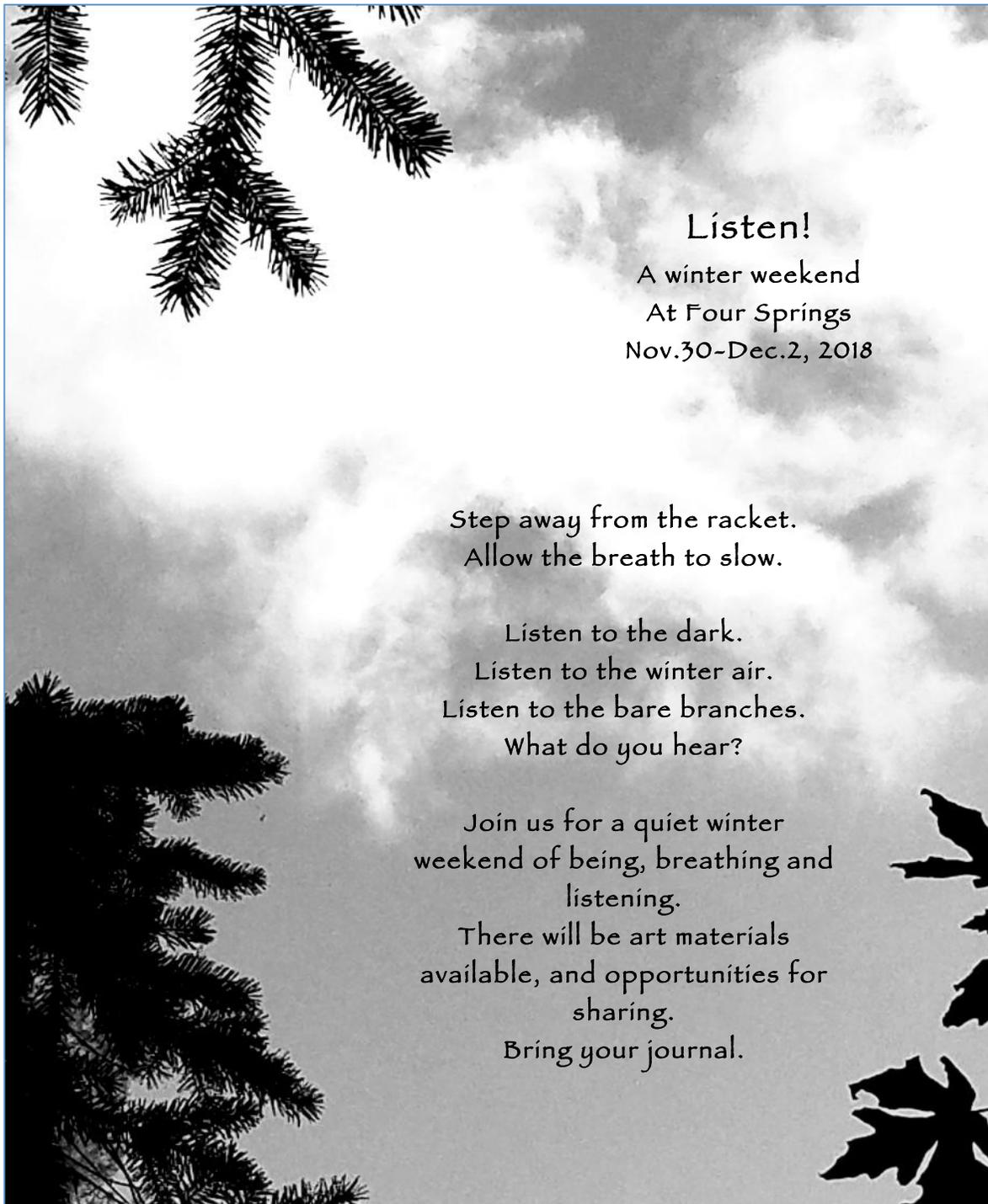
By Susan Thompson

Join an experiential retreat to Northern Spain – open to all -- where we will explore the meaning of the spiritual journey and its common symbols. Travel to and explore historical sites relating to the spiritual journey (an archeological site dating to 2000 BC; towns, churches, and countryside along the Camino de Santiago). Study and engage in art expression of spiritual symbols (carve in stone; draw rose windows; make your own paints using local minerals; construct a labyrinth with participants). Tuition is \$700 and participants are responsible for making their own flight and ground transportation arrangements. A deposit of \$500 secures your place on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Susan Thompson (susanlynnthompson@gmail.com) for further information. After the retreat is over, there is an opportunity to walk on the Camino de Santiago for a few days – so do join us!

October Birthdays

Janet Thompson Petroni	Oct 1
Clare Morris	Oct 5
Steve Toby	Oct 15
Martha Maris	Oct 16
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

The Guild for Psychological Studies presents:



Listen!

A winter weekend
At Four Springs
Nov.30-Dec.2, 2018

Step away from the racket.
Allow the breath to slow.

Listen to the dark.
Listen to the winter air.
Listen to the bare branches.
What do you hear?

Join us for a quiet winter
weekend of being, breathing and
listening.

There will be art materials
available, and opportunities for
sharing.

Bring your journal.

Location: Four Springs, Middletown CA

Dates: November 30 at 7:30PM through December 2, 2018, at 1PM.

Presented by the Casting Seeds group: Hal Childs, Harry Henderson, Jennifer Morgan Mansfield, Faith Mason, Patricia Calcagno Stenger.

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

Contact for more information: Hal Childs, 415-573-2469; halchildsg@gmail.com

Register at www.guildsf.org/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

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.

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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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