The Threshing Floor

October 2016 | **Newsletter of the Guild for Psychological Studies** | Web site: www.guildsf.org

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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.

Truth To Tell: An Invitation

By Harry Henderson

Beliefs? Facts? Narratives? Accounts? Truths?

This anomalous and dismaying political season has provoked me to take an initiative that I have been pondering for some time. However this season ends, one truth will remain: that there are many "truths."

What are some truths?

- The "given truths" we inherited, perhaps half a century ago: religious, cultural, familial—often operating as unconscious assumptions.
- The truths we've discovered through our own life experience and reflection.
- The truths offered by science, astoundingly powerful and precise, but always provisional and limited in their own way.
- The truth of narrative—story, media, and competing accounts. This includes the postmodern contextualization and self-limitation of all "truths."

These truths often collide with one another. Consider the phenomenon of climate change. From religion we may have inherited "multiply and subdue the earth," or, on the other hand, "be good stewards of nature." Science, meanwhile, marshals data and draws a trend that predicts drastic, potentially devastating effects. Other narratives, perhaps deployed for political advantage, give competing accounts of whether there is a real problem, a conspiracy, or perhaps even an opportunity.

Too often, when grappling with the profound changes that face us as human beings, we let the inherited truths be the last word, operating as assumptions that shape our consciousness without our really questioning them and allowing them to strike sparks against one another.

But the "truth" of truth is constantly changing …

In the age of religion, metaphysics, and even of science, truth was generally seen as something fixed that exists "out there," independent of our consciousness. This kind of truth is something that is to be found once and for all.

Now, however, we are entering the realm where consciousness speaks about itself, where truth is not something that preexists. It is "performed," created in thought and reflection. It is found in soul, psyche, speaking about itself (as Jung so consistently insisted). The stage upon which this takes place is culture and history. In particular, it is increasingly the frictionless space of the Internet, of "medial modernity" with its commodified images.

But truth is dynamic—it is dialog, indeed, it is dialectic, in which a new "moment of truth" constantly emerges by "pushing against" its former expression. This is not a matter of the false being replaced by the true, but the true being supplanted by the "still more true."

This takes me to my proposal. I invite us to form a regular discussion group. Each month we can meet at someone's home in the Bay Area. We agree on a topic ahead of time—some examples might include the following, though many more are possible:

- climate change and our relationship to nature
- changing gender roles and identity
- the future of "work" and the transformation of the economy
- globalism and the growing reaction to it
- the impact of mobile devices on our consciousness and interaction
- privacy and the idea of the individual
- artificial intelligence and its role in larger consciousness

With some time to prepare, we can each bring news articles, images, and our own ideas and concerns. We could meet in the early afternoon, have about three hours of discussion (with breaks), and then perhaps have a potluck dinner. (My hope is that a community would develop among us, something like Casting Seeds or More Fire for Life.)

While we would start with us "Guild people," the group would be open to all interested persons, and I would encourage us to bring guests, perhaps particularly young people.

This process would certainly share some features with Guild seminars, such as the importance of the question for provoking reflection and the value given to each individual's participation. However, I would "facilitate" more than "lead," and the hope would be that we would eventually have presentations and discussions by others of us. Also, the focus would not be on our individual growth (although that is always involved), but on allowing the ideas to "think themselves through us" and the phenomenon under discussion to "speak about itself." As with Guild seminars, there would be no "right answer"—but hopefully truth would create itself each time. And, at the same time, we will become more conscious of our assumptions and available tools, and create a "clearing" between human ego and the movement of soul, allowing space for new truths to emerge.

If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact me at harryhenderson51@gmail.com or 510 234-8244. I would like to see if we can begin before the end of the Fall.

Life / Death

By Barbara Lyon

All paths lead to death
Deny or rise up and go
Show up, persevere
Dare to accept reality
Dive into the flow
As currents tug away at life
There are rapids
And there is trust

Autumn Leaves

By: LynneAnne Forest
For Joan Gibbons 1985

Celebrations of gratitude for
past seasons' fullness;
Last bright colors anticipate
winter's muted solitude.
Brilliant hurrahs on painted sunsets
announce inward turnings,
silent renewals.
Leaves that affirm, remind, invoke --
then let go
and
fall
so new births can begin.

Healing

By Maureen Hartmann

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' John 3, 14-15.

The serpent on the rod
heals the Earth like Jesus,
bringing wholeness to a divided world.
The fiery serpent cauterizes,
and is yet compassionate
teaching us to be gentle with ourselves
and each other.

October Birthdays

Janet 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

Psyche's Mirrors,

www.psychesmirrors.com

A warm invitation from Seattle artist for evolution, Jennifer Wagner, M.A. Deep Ecumenism: Creativity & the Personal, Spiritual Journey / Psyche's Mirrors Workshop Facilitator…….a caution, this technique is quite powerful, and so too advanced for children younger than 6th grade. Also, not safe for anyone in a fragile emotional state.

Embark upon a simple and profound, hour or so, perhaps sometimes, art-as-meditation experience which will surprise you, bring nurturance to you, and which offers inspiration for your life's journey! This process makes doing art work easy, as the visual expression of your unique body's movement.

Reserve a solitary, silent hour – a table, a chair, a candle, pen and colored markers, paper.

A couple examples give a hint:

by D. H. Librarian, Healer

by H.N. – Gardener, Artist, Healer

The technique is to journal-write for 5 minutes about the question current to your life, then decide to face left or right, move the chair back far enough to allow you to place your shoulder against the edge of the table, with

your head on the paper, “square to the ground”.

Trace around your head looking one way and then move the chair and trace looking the other way. You might be surprised! Study these silhouettes. Complete them – one with each hand. Then journal-write about these Fantasy Characters, who are they? What answer to your question does each Character pose, what does their relationship pose?

Draw a Tarot card for each Character and one card for the invisible Holy Grail of their relationship – how do the meanings of these cards relate to, confirm, shift, or expand your perceptions? Journal-write about this…..

Tarot’s The Journeyer
1st of 22 Major Arcana Cards

Hang the countenances on a wall across from a favorite chair for a month or so, you will learn more from them over time!

I discovered this art technique in 1987, after nine years’ amazing spiritual journey, sparked by est Training in 1978 then by Guild member Al Lusk, who set a quest, “to activate my Animus”. The most profound support for this quest was Guild Seminars in Seattle and at Four Springs, empowering, nurturing, enriching!

A numinous dream in 1981 foretold the unimaginable, gifting me with a golden filigree brooch in the shape of a woman’s head silhouette, the cranium a gemstone!

Along willy-nilly questing, I trusted Joseph Campbell’s edict, “Follow your bliss!” : Relearning Tarot through the eyes of Jung - Studying The One Path Labyrinth - and my name’s source, Guinevere of the King Arthur legends, where I ‘found the Holy Grail’! Voila, all this came together in discovering the art technique!

That I’m just now introducing Psyche’s Mirrors to The Guild is a manifestation of my stumbling along, finally achieving goals. More than 1,000 people have learned the technique, over these 30 years.

I’m grateful for the delights of Guild Seminars, and for the many hours I spent in the Four Springs art room, discovering who I am. More, please!

I’d be delighted to see & hear about your artwork!
Contact me @ Jennifer.lee.wagne

Board Election Results 2016

From Elizabeth Bremer

In the August annual election, Guild members reelected Hal Childs and Harry Henderson to 2-year terms. At its September meeting, the board elected officers for the 2016-2017 term. Through November, Hal Childs will continue to serve as President and Jennifer Larson as Vice President. As of December 1, 2016, they will switch roles, with Jennifer serving as President and Hal as Vice President. Other directors and officers are: Elizabeth Bremer, Secretary; Harry Henderson, Treasurer; and Denise Dinwiddie, Member at Large. Many thanks to our continuing directors! Two positions remain open and we welcome interest from others in board service – please contact the office or a member of the board for more information.

Anxiety and Joy

June 27 – July 2, 2017

Anxiety is no stranger to many of us. It can steal the breath. It can disorient in the middle of the night or overwhelm in the midst of normal daily activities. We may feel powerless in its presence or embarrassed that it compels us toward unwanted behaviors. What is anxiety and what does it tell us about itself? What is required of us to face it and its multiple manifestations?

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 something new that wants to come into being. What orientation of heart and mind might be needed to explore the creativity that is hidden within anxiety? How might the disturbing symptoms we experience lead to greater 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.

Leaders:
Manuel Costa, MA MFT
Jennifer Larson MA
Patricia Calcagno Stenger, MA MFT

Location:
The Angela Center, Santa Rosa CA

Fee:
$1,100 + $50.00 registration if application is received before February 27, 2017
$1.200 + $50.00 registration if application is received after February 26, 2017

For more information about the seminar please contact
Patricia Stenger at pstenger@comcast.net or 707-537-1511
For information about scholarships, please contact
Manuel Costa at mjmmc46987@aol.com or 408-266-2084

Register at http://guildsf.org/online-seminar-registration/

A Time to Go Dark

A Solstice silent retreat

December 2 - 4, 2016

To go into the dark with a light is to know the light.
To know the dark, go dark, go without sight
And find that dark, too, blooms and sings
And is traveled with dark feet and dark wings.

Wendell Berry

As the year completes itself in winter night, and as the days grow shorter, we can draw into ourselves, as the iris withdraws into its rhizome, and pull back from multitasking and the insistent activity of our days, to take time for reflection and replenishment.
Come to a silent retreat weekend at Four Springs. Our time will be one of structureless structure. There will be planned and unplanned meditation, materials for creativity, time for walking and writing and sleep, and food for body and soul. Leave your daily cares behind, and bring your longing self to a silent solstice of solace.

Offered by: The Casting Seeds Research Group

Dates: Friday, December 2, 2016 at 7:30PM until Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 1PM

Fee: $300 plus a nonrefundable deposit of $50. Scholarships are available.

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

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.

Board of Directors

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Harry Henderson, Treasurer
Denise Dinwiddie
Jennifer Larson, Vice President