



# *The Threshing Floor*

February 2019

**Newsletter of the Guild for Psychological Studies**

Web site: [www.guildsf.org](http://www.guildsf.org)

Phone: (415) 561-2385

P.O. Box 29385, San Francisco, California 94129-0385

e-mail: [office@guildsf.org](mailto: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.

## Dear Guild Friends,

Nils and Judith Peterson have packed up, sold the house, and made the great move—to Seattle. It was time. With Judith's ALS diagnosis and both of our aging issues, it became hard to manage the big house. We packed up, sold the dear house of fifty years, and moved to a very comfortable senior residence—just three miles from our daughter, Erika, and her family.

While we miss being close to many dear friends, and the Guild seminars we were both so richly involved in, we are grateful for the move. Having a lovely apartment with a weekly housekeeper, and meals daily in a huge dining room over looking snowy mountains and water, and many activities to choose from, plus good health care, is not that bad. I am also grateful to have the opportunity to relax and introvert and be still a lot. My disease is very slow growing and not painful, mostly affecting the legs—it happens Nils and I have identical leg braces.

Our new address:  
12501 Greenwood Ave. N #C210  
Seattle, WA 981338  
Phone: 1 206 693 3955

With gratitude and love, Nils and Judith Peterson

## From Nils's Moving Notes

Jung built his tower stone by stone, a palpable archetype, and Yeats had his great tower at where he would go up the winding stair to brood and write his poems looking about him at what he could see, what he could see, remember, feel, about the whole of his life. Up in the tower his memory seemed to quicken and energize his awareness of self. But the real tower, the tower that we are all building, is the tower of age from which we look back and down at things, remembering, recreating, and, indeed, sometimes making up things that we think we're remembering. From a poem of mine:

Sometimes, after just waking, we wonder –  
what's the story?

It's as if we sat ... on a rock watching all  
that we have sensed spread out before us,  
everything, all at once, on memory's picnic cloth.

So I found this this morning in *The London Review of Books*, "There is a fine Scots word for the sale of a house, farm or factory: a displenishment. Well yes, that's exactly what the emptying of my house felt like, a displenishment, the "plenish" of 50 years is gone, and one heads towards a minimalist world. Haven't gotten there yet, however. Dragged a lot of stuff with me. The daughters are not yet off the hook.

## The Stories We Tell

By Patricia Calcagno Stenger

I have many decades of life now, and many experiences that have become repeating memories. Some of those memories, triggered by who – knows- what, seem to come unbidden, and leave emotions and thoughts like contrails following a jet flying overhead. Sometimes it seems like they end with a whisper that is just outside ones hearing: the moral of this story is, “love means loss,” or “If only I had said...”

That there is energy accompanying these memories and stories tells us that there is life wanting to be known. Do you feel yourself drawn by the possibility of coming to know yourself and your sense of self more fully? Join us at Bishops Ranch for a process listening to the stories that may be in our bones. How have those stories formed us? Perhaps the old forms having folded in on themselves, seek to be unfolded and reborn.

The Stories We Tell  
April 15- 18, 2019  
Bishop’s Ranch Healdsburg, CA

*“We must keep alive aspirations which can remain valid through the longest and darkest period of universal calamity and degradation.”*

*TS. Eliot, letter February 9, 1940*

## February Birthdays

Rob Gibbons	Feb 2
Hal Milton	Feb 2
Rita McGowan	Feb 9
Carl Sutter	Feb 9
John Roedel	Feb 11
Susan Hice	Feb 12
Nancy Anderson	Feb 14
Linda Davidge	Feb 15
Joanna Bramble	Feb 21
Charles Siegfried	Feb 21
David Dugan	Feb 22
Ann Elsbach	Feb 22
Bob Barram	Feb 27
Joanie Misrack	Feb 28

## Sad News

Guild members and friends,

The Guild office has been informed of the death of Janet Boeth Jones on Friday, January 11. I have no other details about her passing at this time.

Janet was a long time Guild member and participant in Guild seminars. She has been involved in the operation of the Guild and the Guild Publishing House for many years. She had previously been a member of the Board of Directors for the Guild and was currently a member of the Board for the Publishing House. She served as a member of the Guild Steering Committee for many years and was an ongoing editor of the Threshing Floor, the Guild's monthly newsletter.

Janet was passionate about the Guild and devoted much time and energy to making sure that the Guild continued to provide a high quality of services to its members and participants. She will be missed by all of us involved with the Guild.

Sincerely,

Bob Ridder



## March Birthdays

Sylvia Light	Mar 3
Tricia Schexnaydre	Mar 3
Charles Pfeifer	Mar 4
Rosalie Lambrose	Mar 7
Matthew Black	Mar 8
Andrea English	Mar 11
Laurie Mathers	Mar 15
Isabella DiBari	Mar 17
John Gallagher	Mar 18
Beth Harrison	Mar 18
Sally Pugsley	Mar 18
Carol Gaab	Mar 21
Mary Duvall	Mar 22
Gail Priestley	Mar 25
Mary Louise Metz	Mar 26
Teresa Sylvester	Mar 27
Susanna Singer	Mar 29

# The Stories We Tell

April 15 - 18, 2019

Bishop's Ranch  
Healdsburg, CA

There are stories that reside within each of us. Perhaps they come into conversation as an anecdote or are retold around the holiday dinner table. They may be awakened by an image, song or movie character. Often linked to experiences in the past, these stories seem to carry within them an indelible "truth" about who we are:

*By the third grade, I realized that I was an odd duck.  
I came into a big family so I do well in groups.  
When my father died, I stopped believing in God.  
I am just not a creative person...*

What are the stories that have formed our sense of self? How have they influenced us, possibly from behind the scenes? Perhaps we need to hear them through their own voices. Who or what authors our "history"? Do these stories have their own intentions? If so, do those intentions support or stifle the becoming of our true self?

In this seminar we will become our own listeners, allowing the stories to tell their own tales. Welcoming what has become history, we will invite *Knowing* to unfold itself through reflection, imagining, art, body awareness and sharing. Through this process space may be discovered that allows new and different stories, along with their insights, to emerge.

We listen for answers to the question: Who do I think I am?

**Leaders:**

Manuel Costa, M.A. LMFT  
Jennifer Morgan Mansfield, M.A.  
Patricia Calcagno Stenger, M.A. LMFT

**Cost:** \$550.00 plus \$50.00 registration fee.  
Scholarships are available



## Wrestling with Truth

A seminar presented by the  
**Guild for Psychological Studies**  
September 27 – October 6, 2019

In our upside-down society, where media and technology are appropriating the whole world, and the very idea of truth is questioned, what will help us live meaningful lives in an age of pervasive anxiety?

Though it has waned and is no longer the guiding light of our civilization, the Judeo-Christian tradition has been the archetypal DNA of our collective soul. Unseen, it works still in the background of our lives.

After many decades of work with the historical Jesus, the Guild now turns its attention to consciousness, truth and the end of meaning. The death of God symbolizes a new status of consciousness that influences us all. What does the death of Meaning, a brand-new event in the history of the world, have to teach us?

What can we learn about what has happened to consciousness over the last three thousand years by taking a fresh psychological look at the Judeo-Christian tradition? How do Abraham, Moses, Job and Yahweh, along with Jesus Christ, illuminate the evolution of consciousness from a new soul perspective?

We will seek a new truth embedded in the teachings of Jesus that reflects the historical self-negating and self-transforming work of soul, which is truth ever recreating itself. As we wrestle with truth we wrestle with ourselves and engage with what is called soul-making, or making soul real.

The seminar process uses a modified Socratic method to guide group discussion. We honor the dignity of each individual to express themselves honestly and move at their own pace. Mutual respect will support us as we engage difficult truths and new perspectives.

Our work together will be enriched by the use of non-verbal approaches: meditation, expressive arts, music, body movement and awareness, and silence.

**Special Note:** All applicants, please include a letter stating your interest in attending this seminar. If you are new to the Guild's work, please tell us a little about yourself and your psychological and spiritual journey.

**Location:** Four Springs, Middletown CA

**Leaders:** Hal Childs, PhD, MFT and Patricia Calcagno Stenger, MA, MFT

**Fee:** \$1,495. Include a non-refundable fee of \$50 with registration.

Scholarships and payment plans are available.

Contact for more information: Hal Childs, 415-573-2469; halchilds@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

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## 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.

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 Ravelly 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

Jennifer Larson, President  
Hal Childs, Vice President  
Harry Henderson, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Bremer,  
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