



# The Threshing Floor

August 2019

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.

## A Quiet Moment at "Nourishing the Soul" from my notebook

By: Nils Peterson

I have scattered a dozen or more books of poems about a table. My friends and I sit reading them – late afternoon, wine a few minutes off – a quiet time – though an impudent breeze has just blown the door open and the sweet smell of cow dung drifts into the room. How sweetly slow this time is. Janet is reading *Naked Poetry* – Joyce, *A Book of Luminous Things*. I am reading Mary Oliver talking about loving Whitman as a girl in Ohio, learning that poems were made "to be company," that poetry was "everything that was needed, when everything was needed." How lucky in her loneliness to have made such friends.

## August Birthdays

Marilyn Baldauf Cooney	Aug 7
Skip Light	Aug 8
David Mann	Aug 9
Susan Hartz	Aug 11
William Snorf	Aug 15
LynneAnne Forest	Aug 16
Manuel Costa	Aug 20
George Stenger	Aug 20
Bob Ridder	Aug 21
Richard Christensen	Aug 23
Raiford Gaffney	Aug 25
Susan Warner Smith	Aug 25
Carnella Gordon-Brown	Aug 29
Patricia Calcagno Stenger	Aug 30

## Water Snake

By Mary Oliver

I saw him  
in a dry place  
on a hot day,  
a traveler  
making his way  
from one pond  
to another,  
and he lifted up  
his chary face  
and looked at me with his gravel eyes,  
and the feather of his tongue  
shot in and out  
of his otherwise clamped mouth,  
and I stopped on the path  
to give him room,  
and he went past me  
with his head high,  
loathing me, I think,  
for my long legs,  
my poor body, like a post,  
my many fingers,  
for he didn't linger  
but, touching the other side of the path,  
he headed, in long lunges and quick heave,  
straight to the nearest basin  
of sweet black water and weed, and solitude---





## Wrestling with Truth

A seminar presented by the  
**Guild for Psychological Studies**  
September 28 (Sat) – October 6 (Sun), 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, plus a non-refundable fee of \$50 with registration.

Scholarships and payment plans are available.

Contact for more information: Hal Childs, 415-573-2469; [halchildsg@gmail.com](mailto:halchildsg@gmail.com)

Register at <https://guildsf.org/online-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](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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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](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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