

Newsletter April 2008

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Analytical Psychology Club San Francisco

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Dear APC Member,

As our very successful APC-SF 2007-2008 Season comes to a close, we have two more events for you: Meredith Sabini's talk on "Objective Dreams About Evolution" and Naomi Lowinsky's talk, at our APC-SF Picnic, on "Faust and Jung."

For our next meeting Meredith has hospitably invited us to meet on April 13th at The Dream Institute in Berkeley.

Ruth and Gareth Hill have again generously offered their beautiful home and garden next to Tilden Park in the Berkeley hills, for our June 1st afternoon of friendship and picnic-feast.

Please note that there is no meeting in May.

As always, members are encouraged to bring guests to both events. The picnic is always a good time where guests and prospective members can mingle in the relaxed sociable environment with afternoon sun and lots to eat.

This month's Newsletter includes details of our next meeting, some important updates to the APC-SF board members and an overflowing Poetry Page.

"OBJECTIVE DREAMS ABOUT EVOLUTION: A helpful perspective for our times"

Presented by Meredith Sabini, Ph.D

When: Sunday, April 13th, 2008. 2pm

Where: The Dream Institute, in Berkeley, 1672 University Ave (on the South side of University Ave. between Jefferson and McGee)

It's a dicey time we're living through, with many forms of life on our planet in peril. Evolution has been our main Creation story, of where we came from and where we're headed. Jung envisioned Homo sapiens as one enormous Being, with consciousness at its head and a long saurian's tail of our species' history behind. For about ten years, I've been collecting dreams that refer to our evolution — past, present, future. They seem to provide a kind of psychic ballast, anchoring us in this earth and this life, compensating the worries people have about survival. Jung felt it was important we have a living sense of history.





The underlying reference in the scene, apparently from daily life, is to the nourishment and refreshment offered to the deceased, and men in general, by the goddess of a sacred tree.

In this charming detail, a thirsty fieldworker kneels to drink from an animal skin full of water; the skin has been hung in a tree so that the water will cool. The laborer has a shaven head and crouches with his left knee up, while his spotless white kilt falls on his right thigh. His right knee is pressed into the shadowy earth underneath the tree. In his left hand he holds the mouth of the skin, almost as if he is being suckled or nursed. With his right, he stabilizes the bloated sack as though caressing the underbelly of an animal. Running diagonally along the upper right is the stylized ribbon of a river. Another worker occupies the right foreground.

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This presentation of dream material will be in the spirit of storytelling, not academics. Please join me around the perennial fire circle, adding any big dreams you may have had, and together we will cook up a repast nourishing for our frightened souls.

And we'll get a sense of how enormously valuable is Jung's discovery of the objective psyche.

"I wind my way down the steps of a taproot that reaches throughout time, into the bedrock of the psyche of ancient ancestors, still alive. The taproot draws nourishment from this bedrock and brings the flow above ground. Life depends on the existence of this."

Meredith Sabini, Ph.D. has been an APC member since 1974. She is a Licensed Psychologist specializing in Dream Consultation. Her interest in this topic began with a 1983 dream of studying evolution. Her article, "*The Bones in the Cave: Phylogenetic Foundations of Analytical Psychology*" appeared in issue #2 of the *Journal of Jungian Theory & Practice*.

Our last meeting – 'The Shadow of the Animus - as it appears in the tale *Beauty & The Beast*'

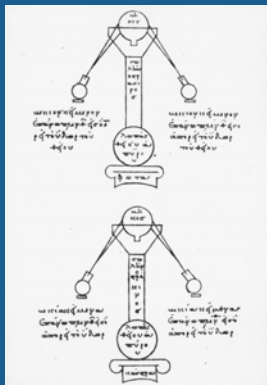
Presented by Gabrielle Guedet, Ph.D., M.F.T., at the home of Ruth and Gareth Hill, in Berkeley

Many thanks to Gabrielle Guedet for her engaging presentation and following discussion, and to Ruth and Gareth Hill for their generous hospitality. About 16 APC-SF members and guests gathered in the Berkeley hills to hear Gabrielle tell the original tale *Beauty and the Beast*, and explore the role of the various Animus figures that appear in this tale — as she integrated Jungian terms and concepts with Eric Erickson's 'Theory of Development' to illuminate our understanding of themes in this story.

Gabrielle also shared with us titles in the library that her extensive study of *Beauty and the Beast* has brought to her — including Jean Cocteau's wonderful film of the tale *La belle et la bête* (1946) and his engaging account of its filming:

Jean Cocteau, *Beauty and the beast: diary of a film* (R. Duncan, Trans.), Dover Publications, New York, NY 1972. (Original work published 1947).

...and we enjoyed time with friends and delicious refreshments, both before and after Gabrielle's presentation.



Alchemical vessels;
two versions of dibicos,
alembic with two
receiving vessels.

The still or alembic used for volatilizations and sublimations consists of at least three parts: a vessel in which to heat the material to be treated, a cooling device of some sort, and a receiver to capture the cooled distillate. The general form of these two identical alembics, each with two receiving vessels, parallels that of the great alembic in the *Chrysopoeia* of Cleopatra (see 5Do.004) with certain exceptions. The tube which joins the matrass or long-necked flask to the still-head is here enlarged at the top to form a funnel; how the two conical receiving tubes were arranged to fit around the funnel is not clearly indicated. At the Point of each conical tube is a little flask for receiving the distilled liquid; these vessels are not shown in the *Chrysopoeia*.. The large heating flask, in each drawing here, is identified by the Greek inscription as a matrass for theion apuron, sulphur without fire.

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New Board Members

From our last newsletter you will be aware that the APC-SF was soliciting application for a new Treasurer to take office from May this year. Following the board meeting held 9th March 2008:

Treasurer: *Judith Loveless* was appointed as the new APC-SF treasurer effective immediately.

Membership Secretary: *Helen Mendenhall* will join the board in the office of Membership Secretary taking over from Judith Loveless effective immediately.

The updated 2007 – 2008 APC-SF Board can be found as usual on the last page of the Newsletter.

The Board and Members of the APC-SF congratulate Judith Loveless as our new Treasurer and welcome Helen Mendenhall to the board as Membership Secretary. We are grateful to Judith Loveless for her past service on our Board as Membership Secretary, and to Nancy Poole for her past service as Treasurer.

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the *Poetry Page*

*We have had an enthusiastic response this month turning the Poetry page into Poetry page'S', I am very pleased and excited to present poetry from our APC-SF members **Phyllis Stowell** and **Mary Lou Haugh**.*

Thank you for these contributions!

The Fabulous

by Phyllis Stowell (Travis)

Across the street a turbine-hum
a roofer's tar dripped engine, stops
then the call one to another in a language
foreign and untranslatable

You expected arrival, illumination
instead you hike the neighborhood
alongside a vigorous immigrant who fled
terraced slums, her body strong enough
to move walls of hand-quarried rock, a gossip
who recites history of every house
-- this one overbuilt and feels cheated
that one wished she hadn't sold

And the great poems, the few
that resonate, illumine, renew?
A well-favored rhyming poet
wrote in Rome's monumental light
"it takes precision"

Traveler, you were never precise
-- inadvertence, the wrong remark, the bruised
fruit of action, consequences multiplied
by the exponent nine, as when a driver
following a bicyclist in rain
steps on her gas pedal to pass and then
as if the Greeks had it right all along

his wheel skids him sidewise
under her wheel

Observe that patch of wrapping paper
taped to the wall, splotches of ocher, dawn-
pink
a few waterfall droplets of crocus yellow
randomly smeared in exuberant splash
at the bottom earth-greens, ocher-browns
a dark inscrutable umber
As if we understood from the beginning
but forgot, memory clipped by memory's
habit
to stall in pain, to drag us by night-thought
back
as if our destination is the place of suffering
never left, across that surface in a child's
bold print: THE FABULOUS

Isn't this what the voyage is for?
to arrive where the dissolving pattern
reforms,
an emanation flowing outward and named
-- not to put off the work, the hours alone,
going on with it, wrestling with a voice
where roofers begin again, breaking the
silence
with mute labor



the *Poetry Page* ...contd.

Wisdom Love

by Mary Lou Haugh

Where is this love?
 Where is this wisdom love,
 The one buried in the dessert.
 How many years of digging,
 How many years of dried up flesh,
 How many years of blinding sun
 And moonless nights
 Do I need to give to you,
 To feel the fire
 You lit in me so long ago?

Was it 40,000 years ago,
 Or three nights passed
 When you came to me,
 Through the star pollen
 You manufacture when you
 Breathe into my soul.



Today is for You

by Mary Lou Haugh (Dec 6th 2007)

Today all I do is for you!
 How easy that sounds.
 But my forgetfulness
 Is as big as the
 Moon light,
 At it's brightest, when it illuminates
 The Blue Mother Bowl Night.
 Forgive me,
 I'm still in the vast forest
 Of this beautiful world,
 Reminding myself you are my heart
 and soul is a daily task.
 Forgive me for such youthful
 Folly and the shadows I hold
 Onto unknowingly.
 Today, again I will try to
 Be vigilant about your presence in
 All my actions, thoughts
 All my deeds, and yes
 All my mediocrity.
 What could fill me with
 More pleasure
 Than having the sweet knowledge of
 Your company suffusing all
 The atmosphere with
 Your charm and
 Playfulness,
 With words and smiles
 That seize the darkness out
 Of anyone close by.
 Today all I do is just
 For you.



Next month we will include poetry by Mary Oliver. *An intense and joyful observer of the natural world, Oliver is often compared to Whitman and Thoreau. Her poems are filled with imagery from her daily walks near her home in Provincetown, Massachusetts: shore birds, water snakes, the phases of the moon and humpback whales.*



This plate from a Mahzor, a high holiday prayer book, depicts scenes from the book of Esther, as well as later legendary elaborations. Haman and his ten sons are shown hanging from a tree on the right. On the left is the episode when Haman, thinking to exalt himself, ends up instead by leading a horse bearing Mordecai around the town. The legendary elaboration of this story is that Haman's daughter, trying to dump some foul liquid on Mordecai's head, inadvertently spills it on her father, and subsequently commits suicide by jumping from her tower window. The Hebrew writing on the left of the page is a piyyut, a Hebrew liturgical poem.

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Letter from London



Greetings from Colchester, United Kingdom!

The university is on holiday at the moment. However, I still have much work to-do – so am not ‘on holiday’ 😊

However, with the bit of free time I have I’ve been attending more meetings.

There are a number of ‘Institutes’ or academic associations here in the UK. The SAP (Society of Analytical Psychology), IGAP (Independent Group of Analytical Psychologists), AJA (Association of Jungian Analysts), BAP (British Association of Psychotherapists), The Tavistock Institute. In addition to the numerous societies / Clubs; the APC of London, the Guild of Pastoral Psychology, the International Association for Jungian Studies...the list goes on!!

Some of the talks I’ve been to hardly mention Jung’s work at all and rather focus on the work of post-Jungian’s, post-Freudian’s or with a focus on Klein. The only ‘classification’ of the approaches (or schools of thought regarding Analytical Psychology) has been in Andrew Samuels’ work ‘Jung and the Post-Jungians’ where he identifies 3 schools: Developmental, Archetypal, and Classical. Within an understanding of these classifications the focus and material of the presentations from the different institutes/societies becomes a little more structured – but not much I’d have to say (for me). I mention these things without conclusion. It remains my own personal task on some level to agree/disagree and accept/reject what is presented – I don’t see how it can be any other way. If it were, then to some degree the teachings would be more like dogma, or a ‘faith’ ...and to my knowledge Jung never wanted his psychology to be a religion. The personal task then is no small matter ...for me. There is so much to learn.

Question – what ‘school’ does San Francisco Institute fall into ...if classifying it so were possible? Although a member of the APC-SF, and having attended SF Institute meetings I had not considered this aspect at the time and am not sure. Anyone?

I hope all is well in SF as the summer weather approaches! Here in the UK the summer means much longer days with the sun going down around 10pm on the longest days...very nice!

anton

APC Calendar 2007 – 2008

Sunday, September 9, 2007

'The Female Trickster', presented by Ricki Tannen

- ◆ Board Meeting at 12 Noon

Sunday, October 14, 2007

'Visions of the Emerging Dark Feminine', presented by Norma Churchill

- ◆ Board Meeting at 12 Noon

Sunday, November 11, 2007

Lynn Franco: a visit to Lynn Franco's ceramics studio in Berkeley

- ◆ No Board Meeting this month

Sunday, December 9, 2007:

No Meeting

Sunday, Jan 13, 2008

'Psychological Memoir and Myth: "What Myth am I living?"', presented by Maureen Murdock

- ◆ Board Meeting at 12 Noon

Sunday, Feb 10, 2008

'The Student of Prague' (1913) film showing and discussion of CG Jung's fascination with this Faust-Legend film, at the CG Jung Institute of San Francisco, 2040 Gough St., San Francisco, CA 94109

- ◆ Board Meeting at 12 Noon at the Institute

Sunday, March 9, 2008

'The Shadow of the Animus - as it appears in the tale Beauty & The Beast', presented by Gabrielle Guedet, at the home of Ruth and Gareth Hill in Berkeley

- ◆ Working open Board Meeting at 12 Noon at the Hill's house.

Sunday, April 13, 2008

'Dreaming about evolution – past, present, future', presented by Meredith Sabini, at Fox Commons, 1672 University Ave., Berkeley

- ◆ No Board Meeting this month

Sunday, May 11, 2008

No Meeting

Sunday June 1, 2008

'Faust and Jung' presented by Naomi Lowinsky, followed by Picnic at the home of Ruth and Gareth Hill in Berkeley.



Calendar illustration for month of April; two lovers conversing near fountain at which second woman washes her hands as third woman gathers flowers; another couple behind fence; at left, youth with falcon; buildings at rear; base-de-page, six youths playing ball game. In Calendar illustrations of Labors of the Months, April is devoted to Spring. In late medieval representations of this month, for example Très Riches Heures (5Fk.033), and Les Grandes Heures d'Anne de Bretagne, young ladies gather flowers. In the Très Riches Heures miniature, a betrothal is also shown. In love poetry, May is the month of lovers, when spring begins. There the blossoming of love and nature are equated. Since in art April is the traditional month of nature's burgeoning, the Très Riches Heures miniature and our miniature portray lovers in April.

APC-SF

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