

# The IRSJA Bulletin Board

**UNEDITED! UNRESTRICTED!! UNCENSORED!!!**



**Anyone who has lost the historical symbols and cannot be satisfied with substitutes is certainly in a very difficult position today: before him there yawns the void, and he turns away from it in horror. What is worse, the vacuum gets filled with absurd political and social ideas, which one and all are distinguished by their spiritual bleakness.**

**CG Jung  
Vol 9i Para 28**



# Reflections and Responses to Gender, Sexuality and Otherness

## Charlotte, North Carolina 10/19-22/16

In response to your asking for feedback about the most recent conference, the first thing, personally speaking, was the incredible experience of seeing a set of new analyst giving such meaningful and powerful presentations. This was heartening for me to see as it elevated my awareness that our work can be so meaningful in the larger context of society but also just to see that continued growth beyond graduation can produce such impressive results. There was a mixture of pride in having been present with some of you in the training processes and also a bit of an internal nudge to get more active.

The key value that I took away from the conference was the call to authenticity and a broadening of our work so as to challenge aspects of societal unconsciousness that weigh heavily on the psyches of the individuals who bear the brunt of the more oppressive mythic structures that envelope our lives. My concern is that all too often the analytic community ends up speaking to itself. I think this problematic not only for the future of our field but also for the society in which we operate. I am aware that there is an inclination to attempt to bridge by adopting the language of the reigning ethos of our time, to fold our voices into that so that they are commensurate with the language of the current reigning collective thought. I see this as problematic even though well intended. I am reminded in this of the Hymn of the Pearl. The youth descends into Egypt to retrieve the pearl but then, not wanting to be discovered as "other", seeks to blend in and in so doing forgets his task. There has been a feel that either we keep to ourselves or we speak the language of those around us. I suspect a third option is possible, that we can speak our truths in a language pertinent to that truth and that in so doing others will hear and possibly begin to speak theirs. I can think of nothing more central to what we have worked towards than this and this was one of the chief values of what occurred at the conference with regard to the presentations in a number of cases.

I am not sure that such things emanate so much from programmatic constructs, though the emphasis of bridging beyond the confines of analytic circles strikes me as a really good direction in which to move. The thought and care put into this conference was impressive. My own thoughts (and what I would do if I had the funds to work with) would be to bring in folks from other disciplines whose ideas are really very close to our own but who see such things through a slightly different mode. What we saw in this last round was a wonderful confluence of the quality of the analysts involved and the topic. There are many people working in parallel veins, in different fields, with whom we should be in conversation. A good deal of the credit for the success of this conference goes to the presenting analyst's connection to the topic and the degree of evolved reflection on matters both personally relevant but also broadly so. You exemplified that equation exceedingly well and I am hoping that there can be a pathway to share your presentation, and some of the others, more widely. Personally speaking I feel less inclined to speak to psychology as a discipline given the field it has become. The evolution of the field of psychology, in that the way that it has trended, has to my mind worsened the lot of the individual and increasingly becomes a mere means of reinforcing the dominant mode of some very problematic aspects of contemporary society as Lisa's presentation reflected. There is too little critique of the manner in which psychology as a field has largely obfuscated what is by nature psychological. I find much more that is psychological outside of ostensibly psychological circles and appreciated your insight into how what is not consciously held by the rest of us goes out into the world where it orchestrates at times a beautiful, and at others tragic, psychic drama. I do think that we could move forward with themes that are pertinent to the society in a more broad sense, climatological issues, the refugee situations evolving in the Middle East, the decline of symbolic thought, the excesses and problems of rationalism and so forth. There are many themes cropping up all over that could serve as templates and platforms for excellent discussion and presentations as well as opportunities to reach beyond our own confines and into the community where the principles and themes that we work with are so very much alive as some of the excellent presentations we saw in Charlotte attested.

Thank you for your presentation and to the committees involved for their hard work in bringing an uplifting and inspiring experience to our society.

Warmest Regards!  
Mark Dean, markdean2@me.com

**“Certainly the difficulties and adversities of the struggle for existence may oppress us, yet even the worst conditions need not hinder love; on the contrary, they often spur us on to greater efforts.”**

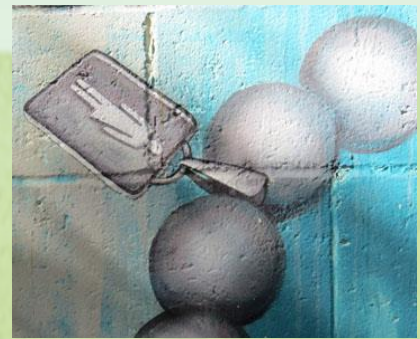
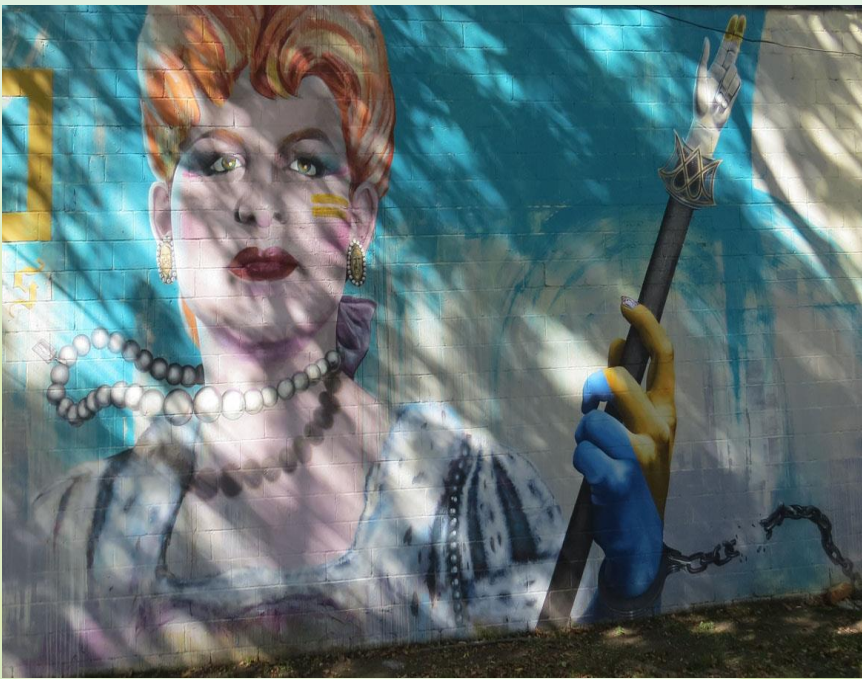
**CG Jung Para 253 Vol 5**



## Continued reflections on our Charlotte Conference....

*Brandy Alexander*: honored by the Charlotte Drag Queen Mural Project

Karen Hodges, khodges@jungiananalyticpraxis.com



**“We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.  
Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”**

**Elie Wiesel**



## Continued reflections on our Charlotte Conference....

**I Want to be as Free, as David Bowie**  
*A Tribute to Ziggy Stardust*  
 By Gretchen Deters-Murray  
 February 2016

Spiky Orange hair,  
 lightning bolt across his face  
 Geometric skin suit  
 Emaciated packed potency  
 Mismatched eyes  
 Space helmet  
 Pansexual alien

Loneliness and isolation  
 Searching for pieces that don't exist  
 Disassemble/ reassemble  
 Add another layer  
 Of color from the palette  
 Reclaim the unmentionable  
 Everyone/ no one  
 Free to be me

42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Ziggy Stardust's home  
 Where the freaks were  
 A peep show  
 Into the soul  
 Of the "leper messiah"  
 Until affluence dulled into conformity

Aladdin Sane  
 Listens to voices  
 Many don't hear  
 Speaking the unspeakable  
 Is he "a lad insane"?  
 Or a prophet  
 Ahead of his time?

With skull designs upon my shoes  
 And the black star on my head  
 out of the closet and back in  
 As Lazarus rises from the dead  
 You know I'll be free  
 How do you know?  
 I "can't give everything away"

Thanks to all those who helped create a rich and thought provoking meeting....Only wish we had had more time for small group discussions. And the powerful images from Lisa's and Brad's lecture continue to surface for me.....

Here is a link to the Time Mag article I mentioned for those who haven't seen Evan's story. These are provocative images....cisgender women would probably not be able to pull off without some kickback.

<http://time.com/4475634/trans-man-pregnancy-evan/>

Also, in a similar vein, the short documentary on the standup comedian "Tig" is well worth viewing on Netflix!

Nora

[noraswanfoster@comcast.net](mailto:noraswanfoster@comcast.net)

Thank you for the wonderful, genuine, sensitive, professional work to make our Fall meeting one of the finest I have attended--and I have been coming to meetings since 1993!

The presenters and the content of the presentations were so rich, meaningful and deep. The tension of the opposites was in the air with Jungians at one end of the hall and Mary Kay acolytes at the other end. I fanaticized what it would be like to have our Drag Queens dance among the acolytes with acceptance, joy and recognition like all the Mary Kay folks were receiving. Or maybe they might all march in the same parade toward their own individuations--who knows!

Virginia

[gdreams@cox-internet.com](mailto:gdreams@cox-internet.com)

Wow, what a conference. It opened me up to a lot of things. I learned *a lot*. Thank you!

David

[dwsedg@gmail.com](mailto:dwsedg@gmail.com)

A profound program all around. The papers, presenters and Saturday night show were deeply inspiring and enlightening. I am grateful to the EC and especially Joseph and Kaitryn for all the time and heart that went into taking us into new places- inside and out.

Connie

[romeroce4@aol.com](mailto:romeroce4@aol.com)

My experience of the conference was a continuation of my consciousness-raising around gender fluidity.

Gretchen

[gretchends@bellsouth.net](mailto:gretchends@bellsouth.net)

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,  
 Nothing is going to get better. It's not."  
 — Dr. Seuss, The Lorax*



## Expressive Therapies Summit

Jungian & Archetypal Approaches to Creativity and the Arts in Healing: A Symposium

Friday November 11th, 2016

10:00 am - 5:15 pm

Executive Conference Center

1601 Broadway (enter on 48th Street)

Jordan S. Potash, PhD, ATR-BC, REAT, LCAT, Co-Chair

Nora Swan-Foster, MA, ATR-BC, NCPsyA, LPC, Co-Chair

Fanny Brewster, PhD, MFA, LP

Mark Dean, MA, ATR-BC, LPC

Sondra Geller, MA, ATR, LPC, LCPAT

Maria Taveras, LCSW

Jungian psychology and aesthetics offer a fertile ground for creative arts therapists, for therapists interested in the arts, as well as artists fascinated by the healing power of creativity and imagination. In this daylong symposium, Jungian analysts and art therapists will discuss their work as it relates to Jungian psychology, with an emphasis on making it relevant to clinical work with clients in the expressive therapies. These speakers and topics have been selected to appeal to those new to Jungian ideas as well as those with more advanced training. Although primarily didactic, the day will include some hands-on exercises and small group discussions during which participants will be encouraged to identify how they can incorporate the concepts presented into their daily work in clinical, educational, and community settings.

Nora Swan-Foster

[noraswanfoster@comcast.net](mailto:noraswanfoster@comcast.net)

“...the tide that rose in the unconscious after the first World War was reflected in individual dreams, in the form of collective, mythological symbols which expressed primitivity, violence, cruelty: in short, all the powers of darkness. When such symbols occur in a large number of individuals and are not understood, they begin to draw these individuals together as if by magnetic force, and thus a mob is formed.”

Jung, C. G. Vol 10 Para449

## Journal of Analytical Psychology XIV<sup>th</sup> International Conference

### *Dissociation: Trauma and the Self*



**Thursday 20 April - Sunday 23 April 2017**  
**The Roosevelt Hotel, New York City**

We cordially invite you to join us in downtown Manhattan for this, our XIVth international residential conference, though our first to be held in New York City. Dissociation is a theme with both a rich Jungian history and a general contemporary pertinence. Jung's early interest in complexes and subsequent focus on archetypes, particularly their inclination toward personification and autonomy, led the way in studies of dissociation. More recently, conceptualizations of an unrepressed unconscious are making an important contribution to this ongoing debate and have again brought Jungian perspectives on the 'not yet conscious' to the fore.

#### **Clinical Writing Workshop - 20 April**

A pre-conference writing workshop will be held for aspiring and experienced authors who want to publish papers in the *Journal*, led by **Suzi Naiburg**, author of *Structure and Spontaneity in Clinical Prose: A Writer's Guide for Psychoanalysts and Psychotherapists*, and JAP editors.

For full details of proposal requirements, writers' workshop (under 'Call for Papers' on website), speakers, hotel reservations and registration (**early bird booking by 30 November**), please click on the link below:

[japjungianconferences.com](http://japjungianconferences.com)

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

*Margaret Mead*

## Upcoming IRSJA Conferences

SEE NEW DATES BELOW

### Spring 2017

April 26-29

Millennium Harvest House, Boulder, Colorado

Reduced room rates of \$149 apply until mid-March, 2017.

A dedicated url for registration will be available in December, 2016.

<https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/boulder/millennium-harvest-house-boulder/>

### Fall 2017

October 18- 22

Hilton Minneapolis/St Paul Airport-Mall of America Hotel

**Our Next Invitational Conference will coincide with this meeting.** Located 3miles from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the hotel provides a free shuttle to the airport and the nearby Mall of America. The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, with extensive walking trails, is within walking distance, as is light rail to downtown Minneapolis. The hotel is rated 4 stars (out of 5) by Trip Advisor customer reviews. The room rate for our meeting is \$145. **This meeting will be our next Invitational Conference, with attendance to the program portion of the meeting open to attendees of IRSJA seminars and study groups led by our members.**

The hotel website is

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/minnesota/hilton-minneapolis-st-paul-airport-mall-of-america-MSPAHHF/index.html>

### Spring 2018

April 18-21

Millennium Harvest House, Boulder, Colorado

<http://www.millenniumhotels.com/usa/millenniumboulder/>  
Room Rate \$ 149 per night

(Kaitryn Wertz: [kate@katewertz.com](mailto:kate@katewertz.com))

Letters to the non-editor ...



## Volunteers Needed!

**Two volunteers are needed to help with both creative and practical planning for the IRSJA Fall 2017 Invitational Conference. Work on this conference will begin this fall. Help is needed with program planning and scheduling speakers, registration and publicity. This is a great way for a newer member (either an analyst who has recently joined IRSJA or a newer graduate) to contribute, meet people and learn more about how the IRSJA works.**

Please contact Kaitryn Wertz  
[kate@katewertz.com](mailto:kate@katewertz.com)

*“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”*

*Anne Frank*



## *Messages from the Heart*

### Names to hold in our healing meditations.

Charles Zeltzer  
David Schoen  
Everett McLaren  
Karen Kemper Magee  
Linda Leonard  
Lyn Cowan  
Sue Crommelin

**Greg Santos (Currently in hospice in AZ)**

~ ~ ~

Dear Friends:

Just over 2 weeks ago I received a diagnosis of stage 2 rectal cancer. Fortunately, it had not metastasized. The current treatment protocol for this type of cancer is 5 - 6 weeks of daily radiation with concurrent chemo therapy on the first and forth weeks. The good news is that this protocol has an 80 to 90% chance of achieving complete remission, "Deo volente."

Because a day-long procedure got postponed today, I am having a desperately needed respite from the barrage of medical appointment and scans.

Consequently, I had a moment to read Puddi's Facebook post musing on the Bluebeard tale which concluded with a sentence about discovering who her "true brothers" are. This led me to think fondly of all of you whom I hold as **my** true soul-sisters and soul-brothers.

I will truly miss being with you this week, most especially given our conference theme (**I hope to read your papers!**). I look forward to being with you in Boulder.

If you are inclined to know of significant treatment events, I have a website at Caring Bridge.org. Just search for my name ("Sheavly") and create an account. Or alternatively use your Facebook or Google account login for access. (It's secure and very self-explanatory.) Snail mail to my home address works too! Most importantly, I would greatly value holding me and my partner, George, in your thoughts, prayers and meditations from 10/24/16 to 12/2/16 during the course of my treatment and for the few weeks after as I recover from the effects of the radiation.

Warmly,

**Bob**

**Bob@DCpsychotherapy.com**

1464 Harvard St. NW #7

Washington DC 20009

Hi to everyone.-----My cancer is till with me; or should I say, I'm still living my life alongside of it.----- My last 4-5 months have been largely impacted by participation in a new medical trial, Stage I. It was a small group participating in it (I was #5 in the world) trying to see what a newly injected med would do to boost the already proven results for one of the first immunotherapies that had become available just a couple of years ago. The trial was over 2 days, every 3 weeks (a combination of 22-25 hours during the 2 days, without spending the night ), and the reactions to the injected med extremely rough. I had to have someone with me on the second day and to spend the night (-- sometimes to convince me that there weren't strange dogs in bed with me).

So, the trial is finally over, and the initial results are revealing some positive gain, but not totally. I also have a new growth (tumor) further back on my neck which may require surgery. And so, life marches on. By the time of the fall meeting, it will have been almost 2 1/2 years since treatment began.

I miss you, my colleagues and friends, and I do hope to see you in Boulder in the spring. Best wishes for the meeting and enjoyment with one another.

Fondly,

**Karen, KKemperMagee@aol.com**

~ ~ ~

In the midst of what was a mild Dionysian ritual (dancing with gender fluid folks at the Fall meeting banquet), I had a slightly dismembering experience: I sprained my MCL (medial collateral ligament). The pain brought me out of my reverie of frenzied dancing with colleagues in drag into the real world of my older, less-fit-than-it-used-to-be body. I hobbled to my chair where I watched the rest of the drag show, not wanting to miss anything. Then David Solem graciously helped me to my room, and my dear friend Deb Bryon began rallying friends to help me and started caring for me, even though she had to wake at 4:30 am for her flight home. Sunday morning Sharon Martin took me, along with Puddi Kullberg as my helper/companion, to the urgent care center, where I got my diagnosis, knee brace and crutches. Then off to the airport where Puddi continued to assist me while I practiced asking for and accepting help (never a strong suit for me). I'm writing this to give a hearty thank you to these my dear colleagues in the IRSJA who lived out, in such a real and needed way, our value of an Eros-focused community.

Warmly,

**Pat, pscochran4@gmail.com**

*The IRSJA and its Non-Editor enthusiastically disavow themselves of any responsibility for the content of this document.*