

# Claymont Society

FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

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## **Claymont Society for Continuous Education: A Work Weekend of Gurdjieff Movements September 7-10, 2023**

*A time to enrich and sustain three-centered awareness  
within oneself and within the group*

The possibility that finer energies are generated as a result of conscious work together makes collective Work with the Gurdjieff Movements a beneficial endeavor for one and all. Conscious work in the kitchen and on the grounds will also be included.

Held in the Great Barn, the event begins with dinner on Thursday, the 15th and ends on Sunday after lunch.

Suggested donation for the event is \$200 if you are staying at Claymont, and \$100 if staying off-site. However, do not let cost prevent you from attending, as financial assistance is available.

For more information, and to register, please contact Amy Silver, Registrar, at [claymontgathering@hotmail.com](mailto:claymontgathering@hotmail.com)  
*Click here for flyer.*



# If I Only had a Brain

(or two or three)...

## The Role of Thinking Center in Work

A weekend workshop at Claymont - October 19-22, 2023

The role of the thinking or intellectual center may have fallen out of favor with some who seek an inner life. This is understandable to an extent, but warnings to avoid getting lost in our heads or just being in the head may lead unintentionally to a passivity of mind which does not solve the problem and may even create new problems.

### **We do not have enough centers to ignore any of them!**

On this weekend workshop we will explore the role of thinking and the thinking center as it relates to work on ourselves. What is the relationship between the thinking center and other parts of ourselves? Many of the great teachers who emerged from *direct work* with Mr. Gurdjieff warned about the pitfalls of being out of balance through identification with thought. Yet, in their own right, they were all very accomplished thinkers. We will consider what was said by such teachers as P.D. Ouspensky, M. Nicoll, A.R. Orage, J.G. Bennett, Madame de Salzmann and others. We will also have open exchange, discussion and observation. Presentation topics will include *kinds of thought* and *Creative Thinking*. There will also be work on movements. The weekend will be coordinated and hosted by Jack Chromey who will also sprinkle in some active work with exercises as well as his own version of speculation and wisecracking.



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"most of them, even with their full desire, can neither think sincerely nor see and sense reality, and therefore 'sincere thinking' and the 'sensing of reality' have already long ago become a very rare luxury on this planet of yours and inaccessible to most of them"

G.I. Gurdjieff



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## THIRD FORCE THEATRE A FOURTH WAY INVESTIGATION

A Duversity Seminar  
 with Anthony Blake and Jesai Jayhmes  
 October 26-30, 2023  
 Camp Caravan, Royalston MA

The seminar commences with dinner Thursday, October 26th at 6:00pm ET and ends after breakfast Monday,



October 30th at 11:00am ET.

This seminar on the potential of Theatre of the Fourth Way, is a continuation from *Enacting Reality*, held April 2023, but with new ingredients. The central thesis is that the Fourth Way as initiated by Gurdjieff has buried in it a strong drive towards innovation in the arts, particularly theatre. Great directors such as Jerzy Grotowski and Peter Brook attest to this.

Gurdjieff's pupil Orage did much to influence contemporary writing and wrote a seminal article called *A Theatre for Us*, expressing the idea of a theatre based on the transformational psychology of Gurdjieff and others. We call this idea *Third Force Theatre* to attest to a dramatic form that goes beyond dualities such as tragedy and comedy to a third kind of manifestation that can combine passion and ideas.

As before, we will include the practice of 'instant improvisation' as Gurdjieff portrayed in his magnum opus *Beelzebub's Tales to His Grandson* in which he speaks of the Saturday nights in ancient Babylon involving the 'adherents of legominism' who created the art of theatre. We will also connect with the story Gurdjieff tells in *Meetings with Remarkable Men* of his father and the priest Father Borsh challenging each other to speak directly in the present moment.

We will be using material from Gurdjieff's writings, particularly *Meetings with Remarkable Men*, to construct and perform stories and events. It is by performing such texts that we can be enabled to understand them more deeply. *Third Force Theatre* includes the drama of ideas and connects with recent work on the expression of scientific ideas through dance.

Though most of the seminar will be practical, working and playing together as a group, it will also include theoretical elements to do with how dramas are constructed. We will investigate Shakespeare's King Lear and also the thinking behind John Bennett's idea of the *Dramatic Universe*.

Of primary concern will be the appreciation of the power of speech and its essential role in creativity and mutual understanding. The seminar will include an introduction to Anthony's techniques of N-logue that explore patterns of conversation.

The seminar is challenging but not in the sense of professional acting. The challenge is to awaken to new possibilities within ourselves. This cannot be guaranteed. It stems from the real world of continuous creation.

Cost: \$525 for dormitory lodging (three to a room), \$625 for single occupancy. Fee covers Thursday night through Monday morning. Meals

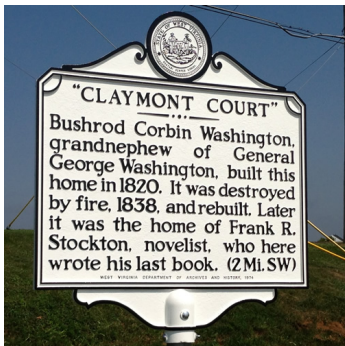
are included in this price (dinner on Thursday, breakfast lunch and dinner on Friday, Saturday, Sunday & breakfast Monday). Linens and towels provided.

Travel Details: Nearby airports are Bradley in Hartford, CT and Logan in Boston. There is an Amtrak station in Greenfield, MA. Ride shares to and from airport and train station can be arranged in advance. Contact [thirdforcetheatre@yahoo.com](mailto:thirdforcetheatre@yahoo.com).

For more information and to register go to:  
[thirdforcetheatre.wixsite.com/third-force-theatre](http://thirdforcetheatre.wixsite.com/third-force-theatre)

**Anthony Blake** is Director of Research of DuVersity and a leading exponent of the ideas of John Bennett and his systematics, as well as of dialogue and modern ideas of communication and experiential knowledge. See [duversity.org](http://duversity.org) for more information.

**Jesai Jayhmes** is an eclectic social artist, director, actor and writer particularly interested in creating immersive theatre experiences using classics, mythology and personal stories. He is currently artist director of Teatro de la Tierra in Costa Rica. For more information, visit [teatrodelatierra.com](http://teatrodelatierra.com).



### *Interested in Booking a Retreat?*

Contact Amy Silver at:  
[seminars@claymont.org](mailto:seminars@claymont.org)  
visit our websites  
[claymont.org](http://claymont.org)  
[claymontsociety.org](http://claymontsociety.org)  
or call  
(304) 725-4437

*Note from the editor:* Your ideas and feedback are always welcome! We would love to hear from you. To contribute to the newsletter, please send pictures, Claymont articles, or community announcements to: [claymontoffice@claymont.org](mailto:claymontoffice@claymont.org)

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