

Claymont Society

FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION



AN EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOP

Presencing Soul—The Re-integration of Essence and Personality

March 10-12, 2023

“With the present, repair the past and prepare the future”

G. I. Gurdjieff

This workshop will be an open-ended investigation into the boundaries and relationships between our essence and our personality. We will both examine and challenge our view of this distinction by means of our own moment-to-moment experiences of who we take ourselves to be. Our view for this workshop will be oriented toward the embodiment of Presence. We will locate and focus our work within the present moment: *“All experience is contained within the Present Moment. This is the only immediate and irreducible certainty. The present moment is not a dimensionless point, but a finite region of experience”* - J. G. Bennett

“Essence is what you are born with,” Mr. Gurdjieff said. We will examine some implications of modern ideas, including the role of trauma, about how we each actually developed from an essence being into a personality. We will practice inquiry to build competency to subtly shift our felt experience toward essence-as-presence. A further question to be addressed is: What exactly happens to our experience of personality, if and when our work unfolds so as to result in these experiences of essence and subsequent development of essence?

During the workshop we will practice: Sensing and breath-awareness exercises; Subject-matter talks, including the Systematics of Essence and Personality (two pentads); Spoken inquiries into the felt sense of personal truth; Gurdjieff’s Movements exercises; Practical work sessions for abiding in presence-in-action.

The seminar will begin with dinner at 6:30 pm on Friday, March 10 and end after lunch on Sunday, March 12. Suggested donation for the event is \$150 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.

***Chuck Riley** will facilitate this weekend. He is a former President of The Claymont Society, who taught on several Claymont courses, including as lead teacher on two four-month residential programs. During 1972-1973, he attended J. G. Bennett's Second Basic Candidate's Course at Sherborne House. Chuck is also a long-time student of The Diamond Approach to inner realization.*

For more information and to register, please contact Amy Silver, Registrar, at: Claymontgathering@hotmail.com
For PDF Flyer [click here](#)

MINDFULNESS, THE FOURTH WAY AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF ATTENTION

The Heart Of Presence

April 19th - 25th, 2023

With Jerry Toporovsky and Walter Goodwin

The retreat will begin on Wednesday April 19th at 7:30pm, dinner served that evening at 6:30pm. It will end on Tuesday April 25th at lunch.

This is a silent retreat as we work with morning exercise, mindfulness meditation, movements and much more. A time to go inward and re-connect deeply with our inner presence. Vipassanna (insight) meditation with two movement classes a day, in an environment of ease and nourishment. We work seriously on an attention beyond the duality of sleep and wakefulness, in an attempt to awaken deeper Being and discover the heart of presence.

The retreat will take place in the mansion of Claymont Court in West Virginia and given the space we can only accommodate 50 people. This retreat fills early, please apply soon if you wish to come.

In order to register or if you have any questions please contact Bonnie: bonnie_kutch@verizon.net

The cost of the retreat is \$860 for residential participants and \$670 for commuters.

**FOURTH WAY THEATRE SEMINAR
A Duversity Event**

An Exploration of Fourth Way Theatre

with Anthony Blake and Jesai Jayhmes: *Enacting Reality*

April 27-30, 2023



Theatre is a largely neglected area of the work, possibly because it requires taking creative risks and confronting each other in unfamiliar ways. In this seminar Jesai and Anthony will share their wide experience of techniques but mainly hope to show you new approaches to self-observation and working together as a group, and understanding the possible working of the fourth way in the contemporary world.

Gurdjieff made the arts an essential part of his teaching. He was a writer, a musician and a teacher of dancing. One of the most fascinating parts of his master work *Beelzebub's Tales* is when his character Beelzebub talks about the creative sessions held in Babylon by the 'Adherents of Legomonism' who, he claimed, invented what we now call Art. His favourite day was Saturday when the adherents worked and played at 'theatre'.

Jesai Jayhmes and Anthony Blake are collaborating to bring the Babylonian Saturdays into a reality for our times. Over the last few years, they have worked with a small group to bring *Beelzebub's Tales* into dramatic expression. Anthony has written new scripts based on Gurdjieff's book, which was just what Gurdjieff advocated: he told Orage the book was for the future, when artists would use parts of it for their own creations. Orage himself was an advocate of 'three-brained' acting and coached his students in 'speaking the truth'.

Great theatre directors such as Grotowski and Peter Brook took Gurdjieff and the Fourth Way as their inspiration. Theatre takes the work ideas out of stuffy meetings, and also the everyday confusion of life into intentional action, originality and play.

Our seminar will include the practice of 'instant improvisation' as Gurdjieff portrayed in his Babylonian story and in the exchanges his father had with Pere Borsch he speaks of in 'Meetings with Remarkable Men'. We will also venture into new territory by employing AI in creating new scripts. We will run a workshop on the dramatization of the first chapter of Beelzebub 'The Arousing of Thought. We call this 'The revelation of the text.' It might extend into the future and the work itself might be revealed! If we can begin to truly read a text it will transform into a message from the future.

Anthony will present his *enneagram of dramatic art* illustrated by the Oedipus of Sophocles and performed in readings with participants led by Jesai from a new translation of the Greek texts.

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 www.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 www.teatrodelatierra.com.

The cost of the event including lodging and meals is \$450 if staying at Claymont and \$315 if staying off-site.

For more information and to register contact Matt Zenkowich, mattzenkowich@gmail.com

Gurdjieff's Sacred Dance and the Gurdjieff/de Hartmann Music

An Exploration into Meaning and Inter-Relationship

Led by Elan Sicroff

May 11-14, 2023



The Opera House in Tbilisi (Tiflis) where Gurdjieff had his first demonstration of sacred dances, where de Hartmann was conductor of the Opera orchestra, and where Gurdjieff met the de Salzmanns.

What are we to make of Gurdjieff's assertions about music and sacred dance? In his writings he states that there is an 'objective music' that will have the same effect on all people regardless of culture, type or taste; that seekers in the past read sacred dances in the way that we now read books; and that wise men in Babylon inserted "lawful inexactitudes" related to the Law of Seven, into various art forms, in order to transmit information to initiates of future generations.

In this seminar we will uncover underlying principles that govern rhythm, melody and harmony in music. We will explore the ways that composers insert meaning into their work, identify lawful inexactitudes in Gurdjieff's sacred dances, and then interpret their meaning. We will also bring the

music and the dance together, to discover how they support and inform each other. The dancer Alexander Sacharoff, with whom de Hartmann and Kandinsky worked on the “abstract opera” Der Gelbe Klang (The Yellow Sound) around 1910, once said, “I don’t dance to the music. I dance the music.” Conversely, in relation to the Movements, the musician must, “play the dance.”

Additional activities will include exercises in listening, meditation on sound, and inner exercises based on the teaching of Mr. Gurdjieff and Mr. Bennett. There will also be a lecture-recital about Thomas de Hartmann: his life, the music, and the ideas that inform it.

The seminar will begin with dinner at 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 11 and end after lunch on Sunday, May 14. Suggested donation for the event is \$395 if you are staying at Claymont, and \$260 if staying off-site. However, do not let cost prevent you from attending as financial assistance is available.

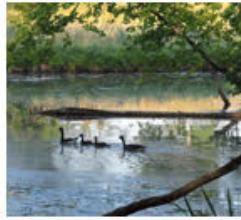
***Elan Sicroff** attended the second, third and fourth Basic Courses at Sherborne under the direction of J.G.Bennett, from 1973-1975 — first as student and later as director of music. Between 1975 and 1979 he studied with Mme. Olga de Hartmann, widow of the composer, focusing on the music that de Hartmann composed in the classical idiom. He performed many recitals under her auspices, and in 1982 toured the United States. Elan has worked with the Gurdjieff/de Hartmann music for 50 years, and has released 3 recordings: *A Journey to Inaccessible Places* (1987), *Sicroff Plays Gurdjieff* (2002), and *Laudamus...* (2010). He accompanied Movements classes for 40 years. Since 2006 he has been Artistic Director for the Thomas de Hartmann Project, which aims to bring de Hartmann’s music back to the listening audience, after many years of neglect.*

For more information and for pdf flyer [click here](#)

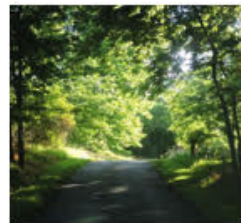
For registration, contact Amy Silver, Registrar, at:
claymontgathering@hotmail.com



23rd ANNUAL MOVEMENTS RETREAT



CLAYMONT JUNE 12-22 2023



For more Information
check our website:
<https://movements-retreat.org/>
or contact Amy Silver:
claymontgathering@hotmail.com

Fourth Way Course of Study

August 18 to November 12, 2023

"Humans exist on the earth in order to produce energy of a certain quality and intensity, and this energy is liberated through their experiences of joy and suffering, and through their response to the forces of death and birth."

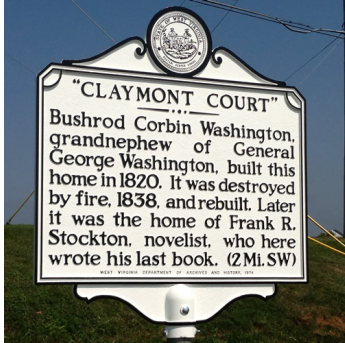
J.G. Bennett

The Claymont Society is offering a three-month Course of Study in The Fourth Way tradition. This is open to anyone who feels a need and wish to go deeper in their spiritual search and practice.

The Course will be conducted both in person and online. It will focus on the teachings and practices of G. I. Gurdjieff and J.G. Bennett, offered by people who studied with Bennett at Sherborne, with Pierre Elliot at Claymont, as well as other prominent spiritual teachers.

This will begin with an on-site retreat August 18th-26th and conclude with a second on-site retreat November 6th-12th with regular online group activities in between.

For more details please read our *prospectus*, visit our *website* or email: 4thwaystudy@gmail.com



Interested in Booking a Retreat?

Contact Amy Silver at:
seminars@claymont.org
visit our websites
claymont.org
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

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