

“The theoretical perspective we will apply in this workshop presupposes a parallel conceptual development: individual and collective. The presupposition on the basis of which we will articulate this entire discourse consists in thinking of the individual and his or her story as concretization of the entire unfolding of human culture. The human condition has reached the most lacerated level of body/psyche fragmentation. Exploring this split, we will most easily find the nature of our alienation from the body. The Swiss medical psychologist, Carl Gustav Jung, was first to formulate the concept of a Collective Unconscious. This concerns a transcendental psychic substrate which for others, and also for us, is concretely organismic in nature. This substrate gathers in itself the archetypal configurations common to all peoples and all cultures in every time and place, appearing and unfolding in a myriad of original and often extremely poetic forms. In other words, the individual organism, in its unrepeatable uniqueness, contains within itself all the acts of the universal Story.

There exists a body of ancient stories and myths within the collective unconscious still alive in the depths of each of us, which the organism describes as the origin of its actual condition of soul in the present. This is a story of five trans-generational and meta-historical organismic epochs which narrate in an arc of more than five thousand years the continuous increase of anxiety growing internal instability, the collapse...and the eventual attempt at recovery of internal sense.

Richard Wolf Nathan is both a cultural historian, having originally studied and taught at the University of Maryland, and a licensed psychologist who has practiced and taught Body Psychotherapy for the last thirty years in both the public and private sector in Italy. His articles have appeared in *Energy and Character* and he has presented at both the conferences for the European Association for Body Psychotherapy and the United States Association for Body Psychotherapy.

“I began practicing body-centered psychotherapy in 1972, fresh out of University, where I had been studying and teaching cultural history in the United States. By the time I moved to Italy in the late 1970s, I had become interested in the nature of animation of the human organism, how that animation breaks down leading to fragmentation and the eventual coming to dominance of a part .. usually the head. I was looking for the origin of an all too common ferocious defense by the organism of the disembodied head dominant condition...in which characteristics of the whole erroneously become attributed to the dominant part. For over ten years I studied the early formation of the embryo looking for the developmental conditions in which the whole embryonic organism can break down, *and what emerges to hold it together.*”

(All quotes are from *The Organism is a Storyteller: Five Organismic Epochs*, copyright by Richard Wolf Nathan, January 23, 2007. All participants will receive a copy of this paper to be read prior to taking the workshop.)

DATE AND TIME

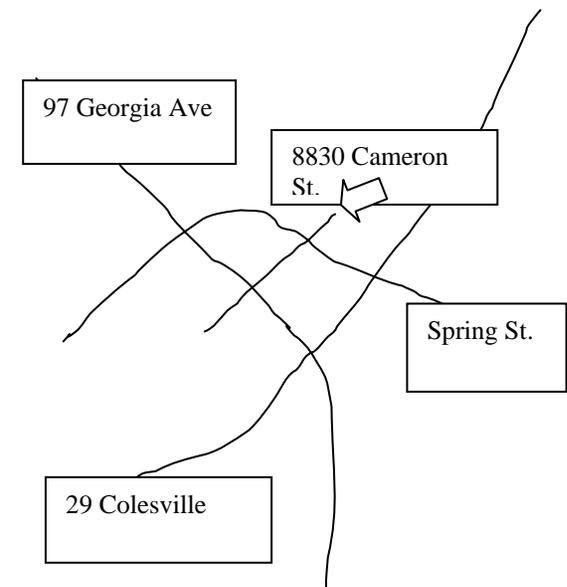
Saturday March 31, 2007

9 am to 5 pm with a two hour lunch

There is a kitchen if you wish to bring lunch and we are close to many restaurants in downtown Silver Spring

LOCATION

The workshop will be held in the group room of the Washington Institute for Body Psychotherapy located at 8830 Cameron Court; Suite 206; Silver Spring, Maryland, near the intersection of Spring Street and Georgia Avenue.



COST

\$75 if registration is paid by March 10, 2007; \$100 thereafter. Full payment must accompany registration to insure a space. No refunds two weeks prior to workshop.

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (W) _____

E-mail

Check or cash only for this workshop. Please make checks payable to DC Guild and send with this completed form to:

DC Guild
10212 Capitol View
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301)588-1726
guild@verizon.net

DC Guild
10212 Capitol View Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

If you have any questions, feel free to call Catherine at (301) 588-1726 or e-mail at guild@verizon.net

Spasmos: A Body Psychotherapy Workshop

Presented by Richard Wolf Nathan

In this workshop, we will elaborate an approach to specific work in grounding clients, “a return to the body,” and explore a remedy for what is happening in us both in terms of the background, national and global culture and how that affects us beyond our personal histories. “The shadow of the unresolved body/mind split exists in the present...”

“How does the organism come to terms with the loss of its wholeness, by which I mean a loss of its primordiality through a progressive process of fragmentation? For the history of Western man’s insight into his own organismic nature is a record of fleeting last glimpses of increasingly fragmented wholeness.”

“The recesses of feeling, the darker, blinder strata, are the only places in the world in which we catch real fact in the making.” William James.