The Effect of Carl Jung’s Ideas in Palo Alto

DID YOU KNOW THAT PALO ALTO WAS AN EARLY ENCLAVE OF INTEREST in psychiatrist Carl Jung? Although the Swiss-born Jung (1875–1961) did not come to Palo Alto, key Palo Alto residents were devoted students of Jung’s work, with some studying at the Jung Institutes in San Francisco, and in Zurich. These Jungian Analysts formed a Sunday Morning group in Palo Alto, and met weekly for many years.

Among the early Jungian enthusiasts in Palo Alto were Bess Bolton, who introduced the Pre School Family to the Palo Alto Unified School District, and Lucille Nixon, a Palo Alto educator for whom a local elementary school is named.

Thomas Kirsch, M.D. will share stories about Palo Alto’s interest in Carl Jung. Dr. Kirsch is a graduate of Reed College and received his MD at Yale University School of Medicine. He came to Palo Alto in 1962 for his residency at Stanford’s Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Kirsch stayed in Palo Alto after his residency and was the first full-time Jungian Analyst in the area. He graduated from the Jung Institute in San Francisco in 1968 and was president of the Institute in 1976–78. He was vice president, then president of the International Association of Analytical Psychology in 1977–95. His book, The Jungians, is a history of the development of analytical psychology in the world.

Dr. Kirsch’s talk will provide a unique view of Carl Jung, and Jungian interest in Palo Alto.

—Following refreshments—

Palo Alto Stanford Heritage [PAST] Centennial Plaque Awards

As part of PAHA’s May program PAST will be presenting awards to owners of 100-year-old Palo Alto homes. This annual event recognizes the importance of preserving older homes that are part of Palo Alto history. This year, 12 homes will receive a 1914 plaque. Please help PAST celebrate this special occasion.
“Create Something to Change the World”

For the first time, the Palo Alto Historical Association co-sponsored and co-funded the annual writing contest for students held by the City of Palo Alto Library Department. This year’s topic, “Create Something to Change the World,” drew 98 entries in the Kids category (grades 2 to 5) and 149 in the Teen category (grades 6 to 12).

Two PAHA board members helped with judging the essay content—Rachel Kellerman for Teens and Betty Gerard for Kids. Winners were recognized at a reception for their category where the winning entries for each grade level were read. Top winners received an award and every entrant was given a certificate.

The young writers showed great diversity, ranging from ideas for robots, time machines and teleporters to talking with animals. Many were concerned about protecting the environment: global warning, recycling/composting and clean air and water.

This is the sixth year that the Library has held the essay contest coordinated by the Community Engagement/Outreach Librarian, Cheryl Lee. The two First Place Award essays are reprinted here. —Betty Gerard

The Imagine Zoo

As you walk around the zoo, you see a flying pig as it swoops down on the dodo birds. You can hear the screech of the howler-monkey-vampire-bat-mix from a mile away. The extinct lynx hops from rock to rock, purring a soft melody. The dragon blasts out its burning orange flames and begins to do the dragon dance. The bunny-hippos jump at the bottom of the water and munch on a sea carrot.

If I could create something to change the world it would be an eco friendly zoo, which held all animals that were formerly extinct, and imaginary animals, so that they could thrive. The various animals would range from extinct blue ants that would crawl around their mammoth holes to hot pink whales that would swim freely in their large and open habitats. There would be 2 ways to obtain these rare animals, the “scientific” way or the imaginative way. For the scientific way to work, you needed to have some sample from the animal so that you could make a potion. When you dumped the potion on the ground, the animals would form in this cool pixelated way, and then come alive, as ferocious or tame as they had been when they were still alive. Then there was the imaginative way. All you had to do is think of an animal and its colors, and standing in front of you would be your own dream animal. The zoo would have nearly 7,777,777 exhibits and we would add more every day. Of course you could get lost, so at entry, every person would get a machine that could teleport you to wherever you were thinking of. The zoo would also be split into 2 sections, the scientific section, and the imaginative section. If you were lucky, the creator of the park (me!) would pick 1 person to make his or her own dream animal. Everyone would love to see the animals, and it would always be a thrill when a new animal was added. Some animals that you could see at the park are dragons, dodo birds, unicorns, and river dolphins. The lime green penguins would dive around the water happily, while the peacocks would be strutting around, showing off their gold and silver feathers. Now think. What would your dream animal be, and what would it be doing, would you rather have it strutting, or crawling, or swimming?

by Ishani Raha
1st Place Essay
2014 Kids Writing Contest

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How to Change My World

Tap. Tap. The old man walks with a cane in his hand. He knocks the floor in a controlled manner as he strides slowly yet confidently. His eyes may not be in focus, but he has a gait of a champion. I watch this man in awe, because I will most likely never be that brave.

Unfortunately I am a coward. I fear change, and there have been many times when I hold back my real feelings. But, the saddest part is, I have accepted this fact and I have not done anything to change it. I cower from my fear. That is why that day when I happened to see that old blind man walking so boldly, I felt ashamed of myself. Which is why, if I manage to find the courage one day, one thing I would create that would change my world are glasses that would take away my sight. The reason why I want this device is very simple. I want to “see” the world the way that old man saw it. I want to see how in the world a person can deal with being blind. I cannot even imagine a world without sight. Perhaps I am being presumptuous by saying that I can experience being blind just by putting the glasses on, but I am curious to how that old man was able to stand so assertively. How that old blind man could stand straighter than me—a young adolescent that is blessed with a healthy body?

I wonder what would happen if I experienced one day without sight? Would I be frustrated because simple tasks are much more difficult? Or would I just break down in despair at how living seems so strenuous?

Interestingly, when I saw that old man, I felt ashamed, but at the same time I felt hope. Hope that if I experience being “blind,” that I will be able to change. To see the world in a totally different way and to acknowledge my fears. And then overcome it. Hope that one day, maybe I can walk like that. Maybe there will be a day when I can look straight into someone’s eyes and tell them exactly what I feel. That is why if I would make one thing that may change my world, it would be glasses that would take my sight away.

by Stephanie Hidai
1st Place Essay
2014 Teen Writing Contest

“Out of the Filing Cabinet, Into the Classroom”

THE PALO ALTO WEEKLY’S HOLIDAY FUND HAS AWARDED $5,000 TO THE PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION FOR A NEW PROJECT TO PROVIDE THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WITH PRIMARY SOURCES ON SEVERAL LOCAL HISTORICAL TOPICS. TITLED “OUT OF THE FILING CABINET, INTO THE CLASSROOM,” IT WILL BUILD ON PAHA’S EXTENSIVE ARCHIVES TO MAKE AVAILABLE INTERNET FOLDERS WITH MATERIAL ON “THE FOUNDING OF PALO ALTO, EARLY YEARS,” “THE STANFORD FAMILY,” AND “A CHILD’S LIFE IN PALO ALTO” AND “SCHOOLS IN PALO ALTO.” THE AWARD ALSO PROVIDES HONORARIA TO FOUR HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WILL RESEARCH MATERIAL FOR THE FOLDERS WITH THE HELP OF A TEACHER-SUPERVISOR.

The project fits well with California’s new Common Core Curriculum standards that require 3rd to 12th grade history studies to be driven by student use of primary sources. While local history—in this case, Palo Alto history—is the topic at the third grade level, the themed sets with photos, maps, diaries, documents and videos will be useful for older students as well. They will be accessible on the internet to all communities within the Palo Alto schools as well as Los Altos, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

As background for the project, PAHA surveyed third-grade teachers to determine which themes were of the most interest. As a sample, a folder was put together on “El Palo Alto, City Landmark.” Next year, third-grade teachers will be surveyed about the most useful themes and materials, as well as what further topics they could use in the future.

Applicants for the Holiday Fund grants were asked to provide a description of the project along with a budget. PAHA’s 100 Committee generated ideas and gathered information which Vice President Harriette Shakes drafted into the grant application.

Checks were presented at a reception for Fund grant winners and donors at the Palo Alto Weekly office on Monday, April 21. —Betty Gerard

by Betty Gerard
2014 TWA Holiday Fund Grant Winner

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History Jaunts

PAHA Exhibit at City Hall, May 1–June 15, 2014. Visit City Hall for a look at the PAHA’s Centennial commemoration exhibit along the hallway from the front entry room and first floor elevators to the City Council chambers. Our thanks go to Harriette Shakes and Brian George for creating that visual celebration. — Jeanne McDonnell

PAHA Joins the May Fete Parade, Saturday, May 3, walking begins at 10 AM starting at the corner of University and Emerson streets. This year, in honor of our centennial, PAHA will be an Honorary participant in the May Fete Parade, marching behind the Grand Marshall. Parade with us in costume—you choose the era—or cheer us along the route down University Avenue. The parade turns on Waverley Street and ends in Heritage Park where there will be booths, games and activities for kids, and eats.

10th Annual Vintage Vehicles & Family Festival, May 3 from 9:30 AM–2:00 PM at the Museum of American Heritage, across the street from Heritage Park. Over 50 rare vintage vehicles will be on display. In addition, the museum grounds will come alive with hands-on science demonstrations and family-friendly activities. The museum’s feature exhibition, “Time Machines: Clocks & Time Keeping,” will be open. Information, 650.321.1004

Youth Art and Cultural Kaleidoscope return to the Palo Alto Art Center, transforming the galleries with the boundless creativity of children. “Youth Art”—a showcase of work produced by students in Palo Alto Unified School District—is on view through May 18. “Cultural Kaleidoscope,” a showcase of our artist-in-the-schools program that bridges the communities of Palo Alto and East Palo Alto, is on view through May 25.

Old Woodside Store Day, May 4, Noon–4:00 PM, the San Mateo County Historical Association hosts a free day at the historic Store in Woodside. Visitors will experience life in the 1880s with a focus on the Store’s history and area logging. Children’s activities include cutting a log, cleaving shingles, making dolls. Information: historiesmc.org or 650.299.0104.


Welcome to New Members
Aimee Bailey & Phil Larochelle
Alfred J. Mitchell

Heritage Program on Channel 30
PAHA’s April 2014 program, “Palo Alto by the Numbers,” with speaker Wayne Martin, Silicon Valley Consultant, will be broadcast on Channel 30 in May on:
Wednesdays: 8 PM
Thursdays: 10:30 AM
Saturdays: 1 PM

DVDs of previous programs can be borrowed at the Archives which are temporarily located at Cubberley, Room H-5. Hours:
Tuesdays, 4–8 PM
Thursdays, 1-5 PM

Unless otherwise noted, images reproduced in the Tall Tree are from the PAHA Historical Association archives.

Become a Member of PAHA
We invite you to become a member of the Association and join those who care about Palo Alto and enjoy learning about its history. Your dues make our work possible: we maintain the archives, assist researchers, and disseminate historical information through our publications and public programs. Your generosity will be appreciated for generations to come. Join today!

Individual $25  Family $40
Sustaining $60  Business/Sponsor $100  Life $350

Make check payable to PAHA and mail to: PAHA Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Or join online at pahistory.org. Let us know if you wish to volunteer for a PAHA committee. (Note: current members will receive renewal notices in July.)