

# JUNG FORUM

ASSOCIATION OF EDMONTON

## *Befitting the inaugural issue*

*Inaugural Newsletter*

of our Newsletter, The Jung Forum is pleased to present our new logo. The Forum has arisen, flourished and taken a shape in the form of our indigenous Alberta wild *Rosa Acicularis*. Birds, insects, and wind accomplish above as much as her leathery-wood runners achieve below in the organic economy of life as a 'community bush' on the doorstep of Mother Earth's northwesterly Boreal Lungs. Alchemically, the rose symbolizes the wisdom of the great work called the Rosarium and Jung likened this to individuation itself. And so it is in all of the Forum's activities; from the depths of our earth, up through thorny woody stems we rise to the flowering and proliferation of consciousness through discourse at each gathering.

*"Life has always seemed to me like a plant that lives on its rhizome. Its true life is invisible, hidden in the rhizome. The part that appears above ground lasts only a single summer. What we see is the blossom, which passes...The rhizome remains." Carl Jung*

As seen from above, our graphic representation of a rosette aptly fulfills Jung's description of the flower as, "Nature's little mandala." We are visually illustrating a delineation of our psychic and organizational architecture and process expressing the essence of the certain type of attitude we assume that stems from our organizing center of wholeness. The five delicate petals creates the number of *natural* wholeness occurring in nature - not unlike the physical reality of the human body - the number of fingers, toes, and



*Winter, 2007*

appendages as illustrated by Leonardo da Vinci's outstretched Vitruvian Man being shown to circle the square created. The Alberta Rose is friendly, common and peasant-like with a definite vulnerability in appearance that belies her absolute stealth in longevity and hearty propagation. As anyone who has tried to transplant or eliminate her earthly hold can tell you, she's not quick to lose her place in the scheme of things. The particular message of our native rose draws us toward a similarly common yet easily overlooked stalwart archetypal truth; the Eternal Feminine is to be found here, now, in the most apparently mundane of our daily, seasonal and functional rounds in time as an inherent instinctual order. Whether the rose speaks to us by surviving the worst Alberta winter, prairie drought, flooding or fire; as a beacon to our inner Beast on the path of our own individuating Beauty; or as the part we each play in the 'elemental process of becoming' in The Jung Forum's community of roots, stems, thorns or blossom petals; the wild rose beautifully demonstrates the underlying truth and sanctity of our earth-bound soul-connection as a conscious and containing frame of reference. We propose that the depth of earthly integrity, seeded womb, and rosy flesh of our own indigenous living and breathing *Rosa Acicularis* contains and carries the story, structure, archetype and content of The Jung Forum's inherent rhizomatic *quinta essentia*.

By Kelly Polanski

# President's Greetings

from Claude Ouimet

A dream realized! For years now, we have dreamed of, aspired to a newsletter! Finally, the humble births of a new communication tool for members of The Jung Forum Association of Edmonton! Thank you Kelly Polanski for accepting to be our editor. That you have accepted to add this task to your many other responsibility shows how important the newsletter is for our association.

We have one major goal: to provide a space for a creative, non-profit educational community that through forums, lectures, and workshops encourages the study of and a better understanding of the works of C.G. Jung and related perspectives. Our history shows that we have a very strong group of local presenters who have animated our many forums with their expertise, knowledge, analytical experience, and especially their passion for depth psychology and all it can bring to the audience. We have also organized a number of special lectures and workshops: Kathrin Asper, James Hollis, Christine Downing, etc. All our activities of the past show an evolution and a growth pattern which makes us feel encouraged and well motivated. But we also recognize the wonderful contributions and the active participation of so many association members and an interested and searching audience. This year (2006-2007) we chose to organize our forum, lectures and workshop around the very Jungian theme of "STORYTELLING." The feedback on the first three activities was very positive. And now we look forward to the other activities. They will contribute to the theme and to its application to our own myth or story. And I think it is fitting both collectively and personally that we conclude this series with "Forgiveness: Archetypal and Personal Dynamics." There are so many incidents in our own lives and in the bigger community that forces us to question the patterns underlining forgiveness. So I feel it will be a timely lecture and workshop.

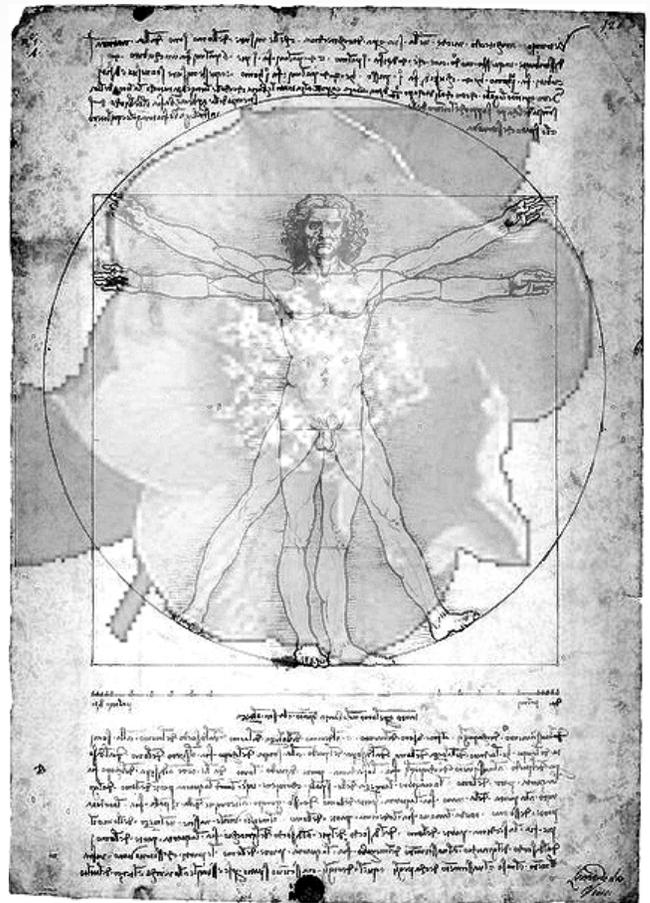
I take this opportunity to remind all of us, members, that our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, March 22 at the Royal Alberta Museum**. Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us as we hope to move the association forward.

I am looking forward to the coming events and especially the opportunity to meet many of you and to keep on sharing between ourselves our journeys.

## The Jung Forum Association of Edmonton Annual General Meeting

Open to All Members  
Thursday, March 22  
7:00 – 9:00 PM  
Room 138  
Royal Alberta Museum

Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man  
with Alberta Wild Rose overlay



*Study of proportions, from Vitruvius's De Architectura*  
1513. Pen and ink, 34.3 x 24.5 cm (13 1/2 x 9 5/8 in);  
Accademia, Venice.

# In The Beginning...

By Meredith Oenning-Hodgson

When the President of The Jung Forum, Claude Ouimet, asked me to give a short history of the forum, a backward glance into the past, I decided to begin by highlighting the present. I think we have all dedicated such an incredible amount of time, energy and enthusiasm and passionate devotion to unfolding the Forum. Each presentation, each poster, each flyer, each meeting, each thought, each moment we have all been willing to voluntarily give to the Forum's birth and youth has contributed to such unusually unique presentations like October's presentation of Beauty and the Beast, when fairy tales become alive and the audience as well as the presenters begin to 'know' that there is a Small World and a Big World and that these two can be also woven into a living Third. Jung might say something like: in Edmonton we are discovering our collective community myth.

Looking through my subjective lens I am going to tell you my perception of the unfolding of the Forum and invite anyone else to relate their own respective personal experience. I came to Edmonton in March of 1999. Typical of a narcissistic personality, I felt driven counterphobically to not disappear and began to give lectures and workshops. With the practical help, encouragement and love from my husband, who did the flyers and Jean Greenhill, who had had experience with the Calgary group and who knew the Edmonton 'scene', the lectures and workshops eventually gathered people and a Wednesday night Jung-study group began to meet regularly. Members of this group included-among others who are not present today - Faye Schwab, a former president of the Calgary Society, Donna Cooley, who also had practical experience with the Calgary group, Frank Burman, a painter, who knew and appreciated Jungian works.

Simultaneously, another thread began its weaving. Before my first lecture, Linda Bocek called me up to welcome me to Edmonton and to wish me luck. This call warmed my heart. Linda and I began to meet regularly for lunch and along with discovering mutual interests and just enjoying talking, eating good food and being together, we began dancing with the possibility of forming a Jung group in Edmonton. So there were these two threads waiting to be woven into some kind of form. Then Carl and Pearl Mindell came to Edmonton, a third inspiringly congruent

thread, and 9/11 happened calling for a ethical involvement in world affairs. As in most fairy tales the number four sparked the gods to begin their weaving. I began teaching at St. Stephens and in my first class I met Claude Ouimet, the present president of the Forum, who in his quiet, dignified yet firm manner and his love of Jungian thought has helped to hold the center of our group together; and Kelly Polanski, whose talent can be seen on all the posters, flyers and organizational form. Since the beginning there have been more and more people willing and able to contribute to the Forum. Without their voluntary passion it would never have crystallized into what it has become.

Since the beginning, the Forum has assumed two shapes: in the Beginning was a circle. When we began inviting speakers from the outside like James Hollis and had to become an official organization, committees became a practical and inevitable necessity and the circle shapechanged into squares. I am going to suggest today that we dance with the possibility of shapechanging for the next season our Forum into a Third form, into a squared circle, a central Jungian image, an alchemical image of opposites forming a coniunctio, a mandala. This would mean practically that the circle and the square each maintain their respective realities, but that they are also in addition together. Their unity would supercede their respective oneness.

This third shapechange can prevent shadow material from gaining power over Community togetherness and can provide a space for discussing potential 'complex material', as well as constructing a space where fun, personal sharing and playing with conceptual ideas all can contribute to the creation of Eros, the nourishing wellspring for any flourishing 'Community'. This 'squared circle' is a compelling and basic Jungian symbol; it respects and honours the past and provides a space for community connections and concerns for our future Community Myth.

# Storytelling

By Donna Christianson-Cooley

Welcome to Storytelling 2006/2007. This year we are attempting something a little different with our educational presentations. We have turned our attention towards extending a bridge between the works of Carl Jung and the setting into motion of our inner life through the medium of story and storytelling. As we are learning, there are many ways to approach stories and storytelling. The professional folklorist, the Jungian or other types of analysts, the poet, teacher, creative dancer, healer, historian, scientist, and the individual person, each has a different method of collecting their tales, telling them and determining the use to which they are put.

Storytelling is not an idle practice, for our stories create a 'frame' in which we make sense of our place in the world. We learn at a very young age to communicate through image by hearing and exchanging rhymes, songs, poems, legends, riddles, fairytales and myths. For many of us this is the beginning of being in touch with the 'great stories' of humanity and the threads of the rich image potential of our unconscious. Metaphorically speaking these threads become the 'warp' within the 'frame' or 'loom of life' that stretch from their anchor in the deep image laden archetypal world

up towards our consciousness, amongst the threads of these great dramas that we weave our own personal story.

Our individual stories becomes a reality when the bits and pieces of our experience, 'their fibers', are spun together into 'yarns' and loop back and forth across the 'warp' of the conscious/unconscious tensions, thus forming the 'woof'. We gain the fullness of our personhood however, when we create a coherent narrative of our lives that comes from the cultural and family yarns that we claim. As the weaving process continues throughout our lives our own unique story begins to find its home not only in the 'woof' of our

weaving but also in its resonating with deeper archetypal dramas of humanity, those that reside in the 'warp' and come forward in the conscious work of our weaving process, helping us to create a rich life-story 'tapestry'.

So it is that we have turned this year, to story and storytelling to provide a framework for a brief look at various kinds of stories and methods of storytelling that can stimulate our asking "just what is the myth I am living?"

*"I asked myself, "What is the myth you are living?" and found that I did not know. So I took it upon myself to get to know "my" myth, and I regarded this as the task of tasks. I simply had to know what unconscious or preconscious myth was forming me."  
C.G. Jung*



# The Jung Forum

## Presents

February 6, 2007

*"Mermaid Tales: Dancing with an Archetype"*

**Linda Bocek, Chartered Psychologist**

In conversation with chartered psychologist, Linda Bocek, Raena Waddell and the NewDance Collective present "Mermaid Tales: Dancing with an Archetype." NewDance Collective's Mermaid Tales is a dance creation inspired by the various archetypes that mermaids have had throughout history ranging from the ancient representation of female divinity to the pop culture sea creature references of present day. Our guest presenter, choreographer and dancer Raena says, "My dance is inspired by the women in history and legend who have been cast out to sea and become goddesses of the ocean - mermaids with incredible power that overcome their initial banishment. For me, this dance is a symbolic representation of how I feel every woman has a little mermaid inside her, powerful, sexual, beautiful and divine."

March 6, 2007

*"Significance of Symbols in Folktales and Dreams"*

**Phyllis Jensen, Jungian Analyst Candidate**

Symbols and images, the language of psyche, appear in many forms in folktales and dreams: individual, archetypal, and transformative. Beginning with an overview of Jung's theory of symbols, we will explore images of the European peasant in folktales and dreams using the Jungian technique of circumambulating the symbol.

Suggested Reading

C.G. Jung. (1964). *Man and his Symbols*. NY: Anchor Press

Anthony Stevens. (1994). *Archetype Revisited*. London:

Routledge & Kegan Paul

Verena Kast. (1992). *The Dynamics of Symbols*.

NY: International Publishing Corp

April 10, 2007

*"To be 'danced' with, to be changed or not"*

**By Meredith Oenning-Hodgson, Jungian Analyst and Carl Mindell, Psychiatrist**

We will be talking about our respective experiences with a chronic illness, about the conflict inherent in encountering the 'unknown', about the development demanded when conscious plans and paths are interrupted violently, traumatically, and we will be speaking about this Mephistopheles-like encounter, which 'always seeks to do evil, can end up doing good'. (FAUST)

May 8, 2007

*"The Story of Soul: From the Stone Age to the Age of Psychology"*

**By John Hoedl, Jungian Analyst**

"Soul is the light in which we see the world," writes Jungian Analyst Wolfgang Giegerich. If this is so, then throughout the ages humans have seen the world in varying hues of this "light". Tracking the movement of the psyche up to our modern time, up to the birth of psychology, Jung writes that *it is now, through psychology, that the soul looks at itself*. This lecture aims to explore what this means for us now. We will look at different dimensions of soul, past and present, and how Jung's psychology offers us a unique way to conceive of our relationship with/in/through soul today.

June 22/23, 2007

*"Forgiveness: Archetypal and Personal Dynamics"*

**Melanie Higgins, Ph.D., Jungian Analyst**

Visiting Lecturer Melanie Higgins is in private clinical practice in Heidelberg, Germany. She received her diploma in Analytic Psychology from the C. G. Jung Institute, Zurich, in 2004.

*Lecture: "Forgiveness: Archetypal and Personal Dynamics"*

From the perspective of analytical psychology, the problem of forgiveness is a task of the individuation process. Healing involves coming to terms with the tragic facts of one's own history. This lecture will summarize the role of forgiveness in the major world religions, draw from research that suggests possible evolutionary origins of forgiveness, taking into account what characteristically fosters and inhibits forgiveness, as well as considering the complexity of the problem from the viewpoint of Jungian Psychology. The focus will be primarily on the psychological process and archetypal dynamics that either enable or limit the capacity for forgiveness.

*Workshop: "Forgiveness: Understanding the Problem of Forgiveness"*

Guided imagery will be used to promote the capacity to circumambulate the problem of forgiveness ~ a way of thinking about what the symbol has to say and how it can guide us ~ what Jung called symbolic thinking. Group participants will have the opportunity to write their own personal myth of forgiveness. Limited to 20 participants.



*In a cool evening last October,* StoryTeller, Zizi Lievers brought to life the age-

old imagery and heart-warming experience of Beauty and The Beast in the main theatre of the Royal Alberta Museum. The resonance of its spectacular telling brought forth a myriad of inner images around the Beast's vibrancy, Beauty's bewildering odyssey, and the mysterious beckoning of the rose. The room was electric as this timeless fairytale captivated the imagination of a very attentive Forum.

At each turn of the story's spiral, Pearl Mindell wove the experience of the audience together with Jung's works. She offered an engaging way of seeing the meaning, wisdom and relevance of how the journey of 'Beauty and The Beast' informs and illuminates our own heartfelt contemporary life experience. All together Pearl, Zizi, and the Forum dared the excursion through the forest and into the heart of the rose in every adult woman and man.

*Beauty*

*and the*

*Beast*

*A Journey of Heartful Transformation*

## Jung Forum Committee Volunteers

The Jung Forum Association of Edmonton is a non-profit public educational forum exploring a wide range of topics of general interest. Discussions integrate experience with the works of Carl Jung, recognizing our humanity and the journey that is our life. Forum Presentations by local and visiting lecturers are created, organized and administered by many who volunteer their time and passion. We invite you to contact any of us at [www.jungforum.com](http://www.jungforum.com).

### In-House Committee

Frank Burman, Artist  
Linda Bocek, Chartered Psychologist  
Donna Christianson-Cooley, Educator  
John Hoedl, Jungian Analyst  
Carl Mindell, Psychiatrist  
Pearl Mindell, Jungian Analyst  
Meredith Oenning Hodgson, Jungian Analyst  
Claude Ouimet, Counsellor  
Kelly Polanski, Clinical Counsellor

### Executive Committee

President:	Claude Ouimet
Vice-President:	Sue Scott
Education Co-ordinator:	Donna Christianson-Cooley
Treasurer:	Rillah Sheridan-Carson
Communication Secretary:	Tara Schuller
Executive Secretary:	Dorothy Tovell
Membership Secretary:	Mary McLintock

*Please feel free to contact us for the many ways that you might like to join our volunteer committees.*

# Alice Major's Poetry by Heart



# Persephone on 124<sup>th</sup> Street By Alice Major

Over the past two years as Edmonton's first Poet Laureate, Alice Major, has reflected the life of our city, marking and recording important civic occasions. Alice enchanted the Forum in November with offerings from her prolific Scottish heritage (her father was a "macker" too) and metaphoric "stockpot constantly brewing on the back burner of her stove." She eloquently described her process of "the amazing leap we make to communicate with each other" through her mixture of autobiographical influences led by and couched in arching patterns we all share. Alice describes her ineffable poetic process as much like pregnancy; "You don't see all that's going on and you rarely remember the details." Her words don't come from the utterly foreign but rather the distinctly human in her transformation of images into her distinct pattern of emergent sound ~ much to the delight of all Edmontonians.



Winter gives up abruptly here, drops like a penny through the torn crease in a coat pocket. Not noticed, as we all scamper for release in the glinting scurry of the melting snow.

Water goes running down the street to the languorous-but-lively beat of Calypso tunes. *Down the way* sways the CD in the coffee shop, *sun shines daily on the mountain top.*

At the table by the window, sits a girl with sunlight in her hair, a ragged nest of straw spun suddenly to gold. Her tee-shirt reads "Six-inch nails." She clicks the coffee mug she holds

and hums along. Outside, pedestrians limbo into summer. A heavy man wears his jacket open, a tee-shirt stretched across his bouncing stomach like a beach-ball's striped skin.

Followed by a policeman, jacket off entirely, letting the air go free. The walkie-talkie riding at his hip swings up and down, like the twitch a hula dancer gives her grass skirt.

Then six young men go two by two, like pall-bearers in formation, except it's not a coffin they have hoisted on their denim shoulders, it's a green-flowered sofa – a throne for the queen

of May, a chintz cortège. As they pass one of the bearers turns to gaze at the girl's hair shining through the glass. She smiles and waves, and suddenly gets up to go. She leaves the café

door open and lipstick on her cup. It feels like summer's dancing up from ritual darkness. All the nails and manacles have popped loose and we're the lucky ones who got away.

*Photo:* Alice Major at The Jung Forum in November, 2006.

*Poem:* "Persephone On 124<sup>th</sup> Street," "Tales for an Urban Sky", Broken Jaw Press, 1999.

Most recent publication, "The Occupied World," published by the University of Alberta.

For further information contact:

[www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca). *Painting:* "Persephone," 1874, Dante Gabriel Rossetti.



## Congratulations!

The June 2006 Wedding of Mary McLintock Smith & Don Smith in their beautiful back yard surrounded by friends, relatives, her triplet sisters from Ottawa and New Zealand, and all her grand-daughters-and-sons.

## Editor's NOTE

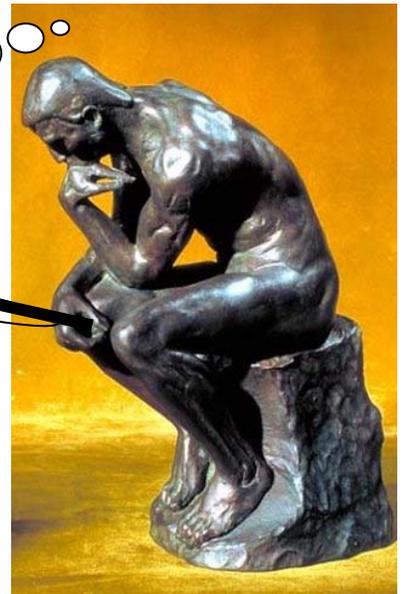
The Jung Forum invites your suggestions, artistry and written contributions to enhance the living experience and relevance of this community bridge. I look forward to your feedback and creative input:

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## Bibliography

All References may be obtained by contacting the Newsletter Editor.



*The Thinker,*  
Auguste  
Rodin,  
1840-1914

# Memberships

By Mary McLintock Smith

**Annual Membership Fees of \$35 are renewable every January.** For years the Jung Forum operated on 'event night' fees only. In 2004, when we incorporated into an official Not-For-Profit organization, we were obligated to establish an "official" membership with voting responsibilities. In addition, we have grown and expanded our offerings. Your membership reduces the price you pay at the door for each Forum night and for Special Events with visiting lecturers. It also entitles you to vote at the Annual General Meeting. Additionally, for members we are adding the convenience and reduced price of "**Guest Passes.**" Any member may purchase up to five guest passes per year for \$5.00 per pass. They may be given to anyone you wish to attend any regular Forum night (excluding visiting presenters for special events).

### Forum Night Door Fees:

**Members \$15**  
**Non-members \$20**  
**Students/Seniors \$10.**

