



# C.G. Jung Society

OF NEW ORLEANS

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## The Alchemical Vessel

*Del McNeely, PhD, Jungian Analyst*

The Alchemical Vessel is one of many names for a container that protects a process of change in which something is transformed. Retort, alembic, pelican, cauldron, and still are other names for such containers. The container may hold contents on a level of physical transformation, of psychological transformation, or of spiritual/soulful transformation. For example the process may take place on physical substances, such as a retort to contain a process to change base metal into precious metal, as alchemists purported to do; or a still to contain a process to transform grains into alcoholic beverages; or a cauldron to contain a process whereby natural objects are transformed into potions with healing qualities. Or the container of a process may take place on a psychological level, such as the office of a doctor, teacher, therapist, or place of a ritual or wedding. Or it can refer to the container of a process that takes place on a soul level between human participants, such as the confidential relationship of an analyst and analysand, or confessor and a penitent, or between marital partners, where the agreement itself is considered a container that makes possible a transformative process in both partners. The purpose of the protective vessel is to secure its ingredients so that important contents are not lost, scattered, evaporated or ignored and the purpose of the work can be sustained and protected.

Let us look at the example of the vessel of the psychoanalytic process that may be on a psychological level, or sometimes also on a spiritual level. Jung recognized that the process the alchemists described illustrated the work of individuation, particularly as concentrated in analysis.

The analytic process demands a vessel that gathers and holds our psychological energy in order to make the unconscious conscious. Why? Because in trying to bring out unconscious contents we come up against our ego defenses. The ego does not want to admit to all it faces when unconscious factors emerge, especially those factors that don't compliment us. Without a container to keep us aware of revelations from the unconscious, we can easily forget or deny those unattractive traits and attitudes that we would prefer to ignore. As we come across complexes that seem so much a part of us that we can't imagine living without them, we need another person to hold our feet to the fire and remind us to pay attention to them, and to struggle to examine, question, and resolve them.

When a dream or fantasy seems meaningless the analyst says, "Let's take another look...etc." The analyst is able to maintain loyalty to the unconscious because of the vessel and structure of the work. The analyst recognizes the happening in the analysand, the nigredo, calcinatio, solutio and so on, and holds the limits or frame of the vessel: analytic sessions of a certain length, a set time and space, confidentiality, and the attitude of respect for the sacred nature of the process. When the analysand suffers, the analyst understands the pain, and when the analysand tires of the work, the analyst persists. The analyst stays motivated by a love for the process, an allegiance to the Self, and a fee that compensates their time and energy. The vessel of analysis is structured and maintained to keep the energy building and not dissipating until the transformative process takes hold. Transformation occurs on a psychological level when the analysand consciously recognizes and integrates their

*Continued next page*

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### **Alchemical Vessel, cont.**

complexes, potentials, shortcomings, and talents. Transformation can occur on a spiritual level when the analysand finds a numinous experience in their awareness of the Self, and with that awareness

to find a deeper grounding in contentment and gratitude.

Jung also wrote about the rite of the Catholic Mass as a container for the enactment of a transformational process within the collective psyche. It is a symbolic rite in which the ego encounters a reality that transcends its own finiteness.

In our programs this year let us be keeping in mind the importance of listening and holding the psychological and sacred energies they elicit as we allow them to animate and invigorate us in our depth. ☺

## **SPRING 2022 PROGRAMS**

Friday, January 14, 7:30 pm

# **Jungian Psychology and Healthcare**

**ONLINE PRESENTATION**

**\$10, free to Jung Society members**

**Presenter: Anne Redelfs, MD**

What would healthcare be like if we negotiated each symptom as an expression of our psychological bodies as well as our physical bodies? Remedies would then be psychological as well as physical. In this talk, we will look at medical issues as motivators of our developmental journeys: 1) Our symptoms often represent something within our personal and/or collective unconscious; 2) They compel us to embrace all the archetypes within us and return to wholeness; 3) We can ultimately learn to translate the circumstances of our bodies and world into guidance for our collective growth.

*Anne Redelfs is a graduate of Tulane Medical School. Her two years of residency in pediatrics taught her to have a developmental perspective with each patient. She maintained her developmental perspective during three years of psychiatry residency, where she began to realize that her patients' symptoms were a cry for help to overcome their many traumas and proceed on their developmental journeys. Through her writing and public speaking, she ushers in the next evolutionary step for health care, one that involves hearing the soul cry in each symptom and responding with our most mature humanity.*



**1.5 CE credit hours for LPCs and Social Workers, \$10**



## SPRING 2022 PROGRAMS

Tuesday, February 1, 7:30 pm

# The Spirit of the Future

## Reclaiming the Value and Meaning of the Individual in Times of Collective Upheaval

ONLINE PRESENTATION

\$10, free to Jung Society members

Presenter: Elizabeth Colistra, PhD, Jungian Analyst

We will explore Jung's notion that "If the whole is to change, the individual must change himself." The cultural, societal, and national crises that are taking place across the world, and especially here in the United States, challenge us to critically think about and question Jung's premise. Is individual change enough? Is personal analysis and a commitment to one's individuation process really enough? While some may view individual work with oneself and one's unconscious as nothing but 'bourgeois individualism,' I will argue that this is far from the case...that the work of the individual – to sufficiently reckon with his or her unconscious so as to produce an individual sense of morality and responsibility, one that takes into consideration one's opposite, one's inner enemy, and one's own evil – is not just for one's self, but for the good of the collective, and for what Jung referred to as the "spirit of the future."

*Elizabeth Colistra is a certified Jungian analyst and Licensed Professional Counselor with a private practice in the French Quarter in New Orleans. She trained at the C.G. Jung Institute of New York and the Jungian Psychoanalytic Association while completing her doctorate from Pacifica Graduate Institute. She is a faculty member of the New Orleans Jungian Seminar and an analyst member of the Inter-Regional Society of Jungian Analysts.*



1.5 CE credit hours for LPCs and Social Workers, \$10



## SPRING 2022 PROGRAMS

Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 pm

# Film Discussion: Adaptation

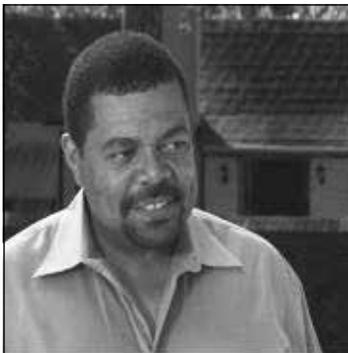
Discussion Leader: **Oneal A. Isaac**

## Starring Nicholas Cage and Meryl Streep

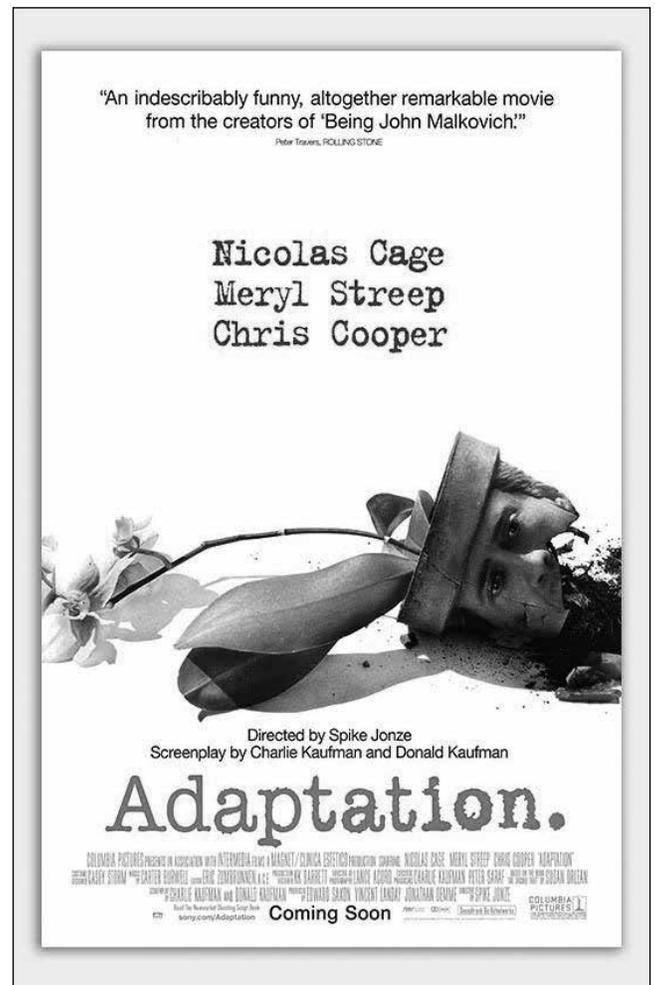
Please watch the movie prior to the program so  
you can participate in the discussion

Nicholas Cage is Charlie Kaufman, a confused L.A. screenwriter overwhelmed by feelings of inadequacy, sexual frustration, self-loathing, and by the screenwriting ambitions of his freeloading twin brother Donald (Nicholas Cage). While struggling to adapt "The Orchid Thief," by Susan Orlean (Meryl Streep), Kaufman's life spins from pathetic to bizarre. The lives of Kaufman and Orlean's book become strangely intertwined as each one's search for passion collides with the other.

Discussion Leader Oneal Isaac is president of the Baton Rouge Jung Society. He works in community and professional theater and is a



storyteller and playwright. He has appeared in fifteen motion pictures and has narrated two documentaries available at [billrodman.com](http://billrodman.com). He has received numerous awards related to the arts. He is a behavioral health patient referral coordinator, case manager, and family services coordinator.



CEUs are not offered for this program

**ONLINE DISCUSSION**

**Free to all but you must register**



## SPRING 2022 PROGRAMS



This video is the result of a collaboration between James Hollis, PhD, and filmmaker Jose Enrique Pardo

Tuesday, April 5, 7:30 pm

Discussion Leader: **Everett McLaren, Ed.D.**

This video asks the question, “What is a whole man?” Men have many cultural expectations placed upon them that are impossible to meet—expectations that are sometimes unrealistic, or contradictory, or unhealthy, or outmoded. Still they persist to result in feelings of fear, inadequacy, powerlessness, and despair. What is needed from men and for men today to ensure our survival and well-being? What does a man need to fulfill his own sense of wholeness and connection with women and other men? With the guidance of Dr. McLaren we will discuss our thoughts and feelings about such questions after viewing the 20 minute video.

### ONLINE PRESENTATION

**\$10, free to Jung Society members**

*Everett McLaren, Ed.D., is a graduate of the Inter-Regional Society of Jungian Analysts (IRSJA). He received his doctoral degree from the College of William and Mary. He currently serves on the Training Committee for the IRSJA and is a member of the faculty of the New Orleans Jungian Seminar. Everett is a licensed professional counselor and lives outside of Richmond, Virginia. Presently retired from clinical practice, he enjoys sharing the work of Jung through opportunities to speak and teach to groups like the New Orleans Jung Society.*

**1.5 CE credit hours for LPCs and Social Workers, \$10.**





## SPRING 2022 PROGRAMS

Friday, May 6, 7:30 pm

# The Philosophers Stone

## The Alchemy and Art of Illumination

Presenter: **Stanton Marlan, PhD, ABPP, FABP, Jungian Analyst**

### ONLINE PRESENTATION

**\$10, free to Jung Society members**



Alchemy has been viewed within the context of the history of natural science as a primitive form of chemistry. Yet a natural scientific approach has shed little light on the mythical, esoteric and symbolic attributes of alchemy, which are intrinsic parts of the alchemical imagination. From the larger perspective of the history of the human spirit, these neglected aspects of alchemy have been seen by Jung as a precursor to his depth psychology and as vital dimensions of an ancient religious and spiritual philosophy, the goal of which is not simply the transformation of lead into gold, but the transformation of earthly man into an illuminated philosopher.

**1.5 CE credit hours for LPCs and Social Workers, additional \$10**

*Stanton Marlan is a Jungian Analyst, President of the Pittsburgh Society of Jungian Analysts and adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology at Duquesne University of Holy Spirit. He holds two PhDs in Clinical Psychology and Philosophy and is the author of The Black Sun: The Alchemy and the Art of Darkness, C.G. Jung and the Alchemical Imagination: Passages into the Mysteries of Psyche and Soul, Jung's Philosophy of Alchemy: Psyche and the Mercurial Play of Image and Idea (in press) and is now working on a book to be entitled The Philosophers' Stone: The Alchemy and Art of Illumination.*





### C. G. JUNG SOCIETY OF NEW ORLEANS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Following the general thrust of Carl Jung's analytical psychology, the Society presents an interdisciplinary program to foster self-understanding by the individual. Jung's deepest interest was in arriving at insights capable of bringing genuine help to the individual. His theories laid the groundwork for a new understanding of man, the significance of which extends far beyond the boundaries of psychology in the conventional sense. The goals of the C. G. Jung Society, then, are to offer a forum for the exchange of ideas in the sphere of the humanities, that family of knowledge that deals with what it is to be human, to make value judgments, and to select wiser courses of action. As Jung often stressed, it is within the individual, and not on the level of collective social measures, that the problems of our age must be met and the foundations for a healthy society preserved and strengthened.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND LPCs

Most programs are approved for Social Work contact hours through Tulane School of Social Work and for LPC clock hours through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The C. G. Jung Society of New Orleans has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 5388. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. The C. G. Jung Society of New Orleans is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

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*Learn more at [neworleansjungianseminar.org](http://neworleansjungianseminar.org)*

# SPRING 2022 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Friday **Jungian Psychology and Healthcare**

Jan. 14 *Anne Redelfs, MD*

7:30 pm \$10, members free

Tuesday **The Spirit of the Future: Reclaiming the**

Feb. 1 **Value and Meaning of the Individual**

7:30 pm **in Times of Collective Upheaval**

*Elizabeth Colistra, PhD, Jungian Analyst*

\$10, members free

Tuesday **Film Discussion: "Adaptation"**

Mar. 8 *Discussion Leader: Oneal Isaac*

7:30 pm Free to all but you must register

Tuesday **SoulHeal: Are You a Man?**

Apr. 5 22-minute video featuring James Hollis

7:30 pm *Discussion Leader: Everett McLaren, EdD*

\$10, members free

Friday **The Philosophers Stone:**

May 6 **The Alchemy and Art of Illumination**

7:30 pm *Stanton Marlan, PhD, Jungian Analyst*

\$10, members free

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES ON  
YOUR CALENDAR...  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

**Website Address:** [www.jungneworleans.org](http://www.jungneworleans.org)

**All programs are online until further notice.**

Mailing Address: 609 Metairie Road, #171, Metairie, LA 70005

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