



# C.G. Jung Society

OF NEW ORLEANS

Spring 2021 • Vol. 30, No. 1

## Hermes, God of Communications

*Deldon Anne McNeely, PhD*

New Orleans Jung Society's theme for 2021 will be the archetype represented by Hermes in Greek mythology/Mercury in Roman mythology. Hermes/Mercury is a symbol for a movement of energies related to communication, commerce, contradiction, comedy, and creativity. He is known as the messenger of the gods and of language and speech.

Jungian psychotherapists consider this archetype the guide of the journey of individuation and of psychotherapy, much as alchemists considered Mercurius the guide of the opus, and the Greeks saw Hermes as the guide of souls. Jung saw this archetype as the mediator between the conscious world and the unconscious world that is unseen, has never been seen, or has been seen and banished from awareness as too frightening, too unworthy, too challenging or too confusing.

This archetype represents a mediating function to tolerate the pushes and pulls of conflicting energies, something we can all identify in our experience these days. These days are dominated by our preoccupation with communication, and the messages we receive are confusing and conflicted. Never before have we been so bombarded with verbal messaging and the constant flow of information, and never before have we suffered so much if deprived of it for even short periods of time. It has become apparent to most of us that we are addicted to our communication devices as never before in history, and yet the content of all this messaging is often disturbing.

Ironically, the Godlike energies with the reputation for being responsible for communication, are also considered the most clever in avoiding traps and addictions. What can we learn from this seeming contradiction?

Hermes' first act after being born was to play a trick on his heroic brother, Apollo, stealing his cattle, and offering meat to the other Gods, a double-deal by a little trickster. His reputation continues to this day: to undercut the mighty or arrogant and befriend and amuse the lowly.

In our collective atmosphere of chaotic confusion between truth and fiction, sincerity and duplicity, factual information and conspiracy theory, we need divine wisdom to help us find our way, or at least to stay our course. The Hermetic principle guides us through dilemmas by quickwittedness and helps us to see the way through shadowy circumstances. He/she allows us to hold steady and cool in the face of potential danger and foolishness, to discern the way at the crossroad, to make the clever choice while seeing through and ignoring the con.

It aims to protect us from false gods and unscrupulous seducers and manipulators. That is why many cultural groups have held a Hermetic figure in high regard: Coyote, Raven, Legba, Eshu, and Hermetic cultural heroes like Brer Rabbit, Forrest Gump, the holy fools. They teach us the seriousness of play and the sacredness of laughter.

As mediator and protector of the subordinated parts of our personalities, Hermes helps us to integrate; in the same way it can help us come together in community to manage our differences peacefully and creatively. We hope this for our little group as an example to the larger society. ☺

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## SPRING 2021 PROGRAMS

Friday, February 19, 7:30 pm

### Connecting through Conversation and Tai Chi

Facilitated by Susan Welsh, PhD, and Michael Barry, LCSW

After having experienced a frenetic 2020, the Jung Society would like to open 2021 in a relaxed, calm manner. It is the hope of the Society to grow as a close knit community even though we are meeting virtually. We will begin by facilitating a discussion with you of how the study of Jung has been helpful during these difficult times, how Jungian thought may have changed or contributed to your life, and what areas of Jung studies interest you the most. For the discussions, we will break into small groups so everyone has a chance to contribute. Then we will come back together for a meditative tai chi session led by tai chi teacher Susan Welsh. We hope you will join us for a relaxing evening!

No CEU certificates will be awarded for this program.

**FREE FOR EVERYONE.** Receive a link the day of the program by registering on the Jung Society's website at [www.jungneworleans.org](http://www.jungneworleans.org)

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30 pm

### The Spirit of the Future

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

Online presentation by Jungian Analyst Elizabeth Colistra, PhD

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

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



# SPRING 2021 PROGRAMS

Tuesday, May 4, 7:30 pm

## The Shifting Ground: Psychological Types in Turmoil

Online presentation by Jungian Analyst Marilyn Marshall, MA, LPC

The year 2020 has imprinted its chaos in our minds, hearts and bodies, and our consciousness as individuals and as a collective has been challenged in an unprecedented way. Jung's theory of Psychological Types can help us understand, in part, our responses to the tensions, struggles and tasks inherent in such a time of upheaval. Our individual typological attitudes and functions have helped us develop and establish an ego with a particular capacity to adapt and engage in life while other aspects of our 'type' have remained unconscious and, thus, undeveloped and disruptive to consciousness. These conscious and unconscious psychological preferences have been affected positively and negatively by a new reality that has shifted the ground upon which we stand. In relation to this past year's turmoil, we will explore introversion and extraversion, sensing and intuition, and thinking and feeling with the hope of deepening your understanding of yourself and others.

*Marilyn Marshall is a Jungian psychoanalyst in private practice in New Orleans. She is a senior training analyst in the Inter-Regional Society of Jungian Analyst. She presents lectures, seminars and workshops on C.G. Jung's Analytical Psychology. Her articles have appeared in Spring: A Journal of Archetype and Culture.*



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### A NEW YEAR'S WISH (FOR 2021)

If I could have a New Year's wish  
I'll tell you what it'd be  
That Pan would rescue Psyche  
Again, on bended knee  
And bid her look for Eros  
Among the evergreen.  
Rather than destroy herself,  
Submit to love unseen.

The ants of earth would come in aid  
Among the many needs  
The rams would leave their fleece  
Aggression, none to bleed.

If I could have a New Year's hope,  
The eagle would dive deep  
The tower linking then and now  
Would rouse us all from sleep.

And Psyche in the Underworld,  
In darkness and in death  
Would come forth with the beauty box  
Of Shadow's gold inset.

If I could have a New Year's faith  
Then Eros comes at last  
Embracing Psyche, wide awake  
Their child within held fast.

Sophia leads them, path ahead  
Their union born, the pearl  
Divine and human, soul doth cry  
"Oh world, oh world, a girl!"

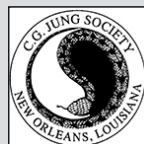
*-Marilyn Marshall*

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

A forum for the exchange of ideas to foster self-understanding by the individual.

**LOCAL ANALYSTS ARE LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE:**  
[jungneworleans.org/analysts](http://jungneworleans.org/analysts)

### 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.

# SPRING 2021 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Friday  
Feb. 19  
7:30 pm  
**Connecting through  
Conversation and Tai Chi**  
*Facilitated by Susan Welsh, PhD,  
and Michael Barry, LCSW*  
FREE TO ALL

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April 6  
7:30 pm  
**The Spirit of the Future: Reclaiming the  
Value and Meaning of the Individual  
in Times of Collective Upheaval**  
*Elizabeth Colistra, PhD, Jungian Analyst*  
\$10, members free

Tuesday  
May 4  
7:30 pm  
**The Shifting Ground:  
Psychological Types in Turmoil**  
*Marilyn Marshall, MA, LPC, Jungian Analyst*  
\$10, members free

**Please put these dates  
on your calendar...we look  
forward to seeing you!**

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

**All programs are online until further notice due to the pandemic.**

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

Please support the Jung Society by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).  
Amazon will donate 0.5% of purchases to the non-profit of your choice.

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