

enneagram monthly

April 2014

Issue 206

Turning to the Source: *Enneagram Revisited*

We would like to introduce you to a novel reading of the Enneagram. The Enneagram is like a puzzle, and each player must bring their own piece to the puzzle whatever it may be.

If we have only one or a few pieces it will not allow us to see the entire puzzle, and it will remain necessarily incomplete.

One of the more blocking factors to the evolution of science is the adhesion to incomplete theories as if they represented the entire reality. It's called dogma. In dogma there is also an unconscious tyranny imposed over the followers: "You cannot deviate from the script, because I am the Truth". So we have an unconscious fear of deviating and of punishment; that is blocking one's creativity.

In the Taoist cycle of evolution, each time when Yang becomes old, the young Yin begins to appear, and vice versa. Or Yang in its extreme turns into Yin and Yin in its extreme turns into Yang.

We strongly feel that the Enneagram has reached a point of maturity where it necessarily will move towards a new beginning of a Yin rebirth. These two phases of the cycle cannot exist one without the other, and mutually complete each other.

So we are pleased to propose to the enneagram community a new paradigm, not only a few new pieces of the puzzle, but also new and open angles of vision.

Our work is based on transdisciplinarity as defined by Basarab Nicolescu, the theoretical physicist from Romania. *"Disciplinary research concerns, at most, one and the same level of Reality; moreover, in most cases, it only concerns fragments of one level of Reality. On the contrary, transdisciplinarity concerns the dynamics engendered by the action of several levels of Reality at once. Disciplinary and transdisciplinary research are not antagonistic but complementary."**

*(Basarab Nicolescu, Talk at the International Congress Universities' Responsibilities to Society, International Association of Universities, Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, Thailand, November 12-14, 1997)

"Rigor, openness, and tolerance are the fundamental characteristics of the transdisci-

Frederic and Bernadette Schmitt



Iranian painter Mahmoud Farchchian arrangement

*plinary attitude and vision. Rigor in argument, taking into account all existing data, is the best defense against possible distortions. Openness involves an acceptance of the unknown, the unexpected and the unforeseeable. Tolerance implies acknowledging the right to ideas and truths opposed to our own."***

** (Charter of Transdisciplinarity, first World Congress of Transdisciplinarity.)

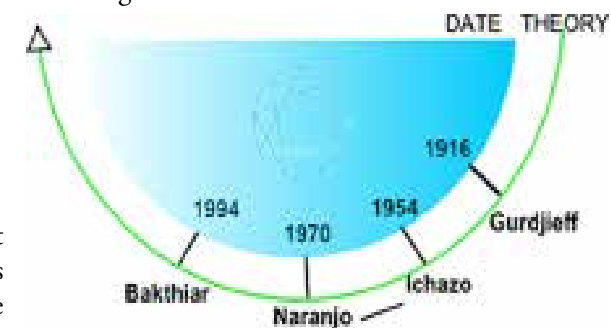
History of the Enneagram

Before all else, we need to make a clear distinction between the schema of enneagram and the theories applied to it.

As far as we know, nobody was able to find the schema of enneagram before Gurdjieff produced it the first time in Russia in 1919. So in a pragmatic way, we can say that he initiated it, wherever he took it without mentioning the sources.

Needless to say that using the particular schema of enneagram does not imply that one adhere to a particular theory nor that one theory is better than another.

In the following schema we mention chronologically the major different interpretations of the figure of enneagram.



Of course we cannot mention all of the searchers and teachers that follow the main stream of Enneagram of Personality, and everyone has certainly added a brick to this edifice.

The case of Laleh Bakhtiar is particular in a sense that there is a debate about the Sufis as the origin of the enneagram. We do ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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April 2014

Dear Jack,

It was good to talk with you today even though the topic was not so happy. You have been great glue for me in this amazing Enneagram family, dispersed so widely throughout the world. Thank you again for all your work and please forgive me for my neglect. Of course I should have done this a long time ago. Forgive me.

The Enneagram Family is rich and widely scattered. Many of you may not know that we lost **Pat Henfling**, an early adopter and amazing advocate for the Enneagram, last June. Pat was informed of her diagnosis the week before our last workshop. Being a highly qualified nurse she knew what it meant. Of course being an Eight, she still wanted to do the workshop, and we did. No one suspected. We hugged closely at the end of that day.

Pat attended the first conference in Stanford, was trained by Hurley and Donson and Helen Palmer and attended countless conferences, workshops and seminars since. The last was in Assisi with both Hel-

Good News... long awaited and finally, our new website is taking shape. If I had Aladdin's lamp, could rub it and have a compliant genie grant me some desires... One of them I'm already married to, so that's out, but near the top of a short list was a *new website*.

The previous web page had a few sample issues of the *Enneagram Monthly* and the option to subscribe via PayPal. Our computer guru, Christina Palmer, fully aware of my vast cyber limitations, took pity on me and wisely built something basic that required no maintenance (music to my ears), but my conscience kept nagging...

To the rescue came our good friend Somik Raha who is so brilliant (in many ways, including computer matters), that he made it seem easy enough for me to find the courage to make the leap — we now have a brand new website. It's operational, easy enough for me to manage (with Somik's or Christina's help when the next bump appears), plus, I actually got to like working on it.

This website fills a vacuum in the web presence of the enneagram that has never been fully addressed — a site not specifically representing one particular school, one that has plenty of introductory information for those new to the enneagram, with articles by writers drawing information from multiple sources, different schools and on subjects that cover a rich range of viewpoints.

It's a perfect antidote to one of the problems the *Enneagram Monthly* developed over the years. Namely, how to make it less hard for those new to the enneagram to just jump in and follow the discourse. So much of our material is advanced, or builds on matters addressed in previous issues.

The challenge was to have a robust website with enough material to fill a book, but in a user-friendly format that can be an introduction to the subject while offering well crafted and interesting articles for

Letters

en and Richard Rohr who had introduced me to the Enneagram in 1989. Soon after, Pat dispatched me to Denver to be accredited also and we began teaching together and offering retreats. If you remember Pat you will know she liked to be in charge and she didn't like to organize, keep schedules and materials together, so she appreciated a One's attention to such details. She was generous as a mentor and convinced that everyone should have the opportunity to learn about Enneagram. She would conjure up groups from wherever she went and we would do workshops in church halls, country clubs, basements, hospitals, schools and retreat houses. We were co founders of the Virginia Chapter of the Enneagram with Patricio Torres, a local psychiatrist, who had learned about Enneagram in Chile with Oscar Ichazo. We had regular meetings, frequent panels for each type and Tom Condon came to do one of our many workshops. We

designed a Retreat for ordained Deacons and their wives for the Diocese. Those were heady and exciting times.

Pat's life changed when she discovered Centering Prayer. She learned, practiced and taught to anyone who would sit still. Even in the prisons. However, her life changed even more when her beloved husband, George, died, and so when she heard her own news and shared it all she would say was that she was ready, so ready, to be with him again. She died on June 3rd, 2013. I miss her and I know she touched many lives, so please say a prayer for that lady as I know she is teaching something up there and she probably needs someone to keep track of the handouts.

I was prompted to call you Jack because I am preparing for that same workshop, and realize a whole year has gone by.

Pat leaves behind her four children, Jennifer, Kristen, Karen, son Skip and her grandchildren. The family still live at 6208 Heather Glen Rd, Midlothian, VA 23112

Ruth Fitzsimmons
Richmond, VA

From the Editor

all levels — the raw beginner to advanced student and to the cutting-edge-advanced veterans. And to offer this material free, with no strings attached, while treating all schools with respect. By the way, we are as usual open to submissions of writing from the readers and remain a "Free Forum" for discussion of ideas old and new.

We keep the website clean and simple, the pull-down menus are:

Home Page

will have a quote, excerpt and/or picture from the *lead article* of the *last issue*.

Types

has a table of thumbnail keywords (for each type 1-9) for those in a real hurry... and 9 sub-sections, one for each type, with two or three substantive articles about or by each type.

Topics

has several sub-categories (*History, Spirituality, Business, Subtypes*; more will be added later) with an article or two on each subject.

Past issues

is sort of an archive with PDFs of the first 3 pages of all issues in the last 5 years (will be expanded soon to include the last 10 years). The PDFs are of the *front page, editorial* with a short description of the articles, and the *table of contents*. (for older archives of the first 10 years, see "Resources")

About us

has staff *mugshots*, short *bios* and *contact* info.

Resources

has two *free type tests* and a printable (8.5x11") *Index by Author* (27 pages) of all *EM's* March 1995-December 2006); and *Index by Subject* (39 pages) same format as above. Print them out or download as PDF.

Susan Rhodes' free Enneagram *Personality and Subtype tests* are very convenient, you can do the test on screen, see or print out the results with bar graphs showing your score in each category.

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Check it out: <http://www.enneagram-monthly.com/>

In this Issue:

Frederic and Bernadette Schmitt have a rare treat for the Enneagram Community and are releasing their research results of 10+ years of hard work: "Turning to the Source: Enneagram Revisited." Just think, how could a system like the enneagram remain concealed for thousands of years in spite of scores of enlightened saints, masters and teachers filling libraries with sacred scriptures containing the wisdom of mankind? Could the philosophy behind the enneagram remain concealed for so long? Or did it?

Frederic and Bernadette knew *there is nothing new under the sun*. As inspired seekers, and trained scientists (he is a medical doctor with long time practice in homeopathy) as well as scholars, they went deep into the scriptures and found a stunning amount of answers. Yes, the enneagram symbol itself was hard to find and to this day it remains a mystery where exactly Gurdjieff found it; not so

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The Enneagram Monthly, Inc. was founded by Jack Labanauskas and Andrea Isaacs as a not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to gather and disseminate information in the field of the Enneagram, that is most commonly known as a personality typing system.

For subscription and advertising rates see back cover.

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for the basic tenets and principles upon which the doctrine of the Enneagram of Personality is built — these are clear and some minor variations aside, are part of the core teachings in most ancient traditions and cultures.

The parallels they draw are between Indian (Ayurveda), Tibetan (Mewa) and Chinese Traditional Medicine that migrated via the Greek and Middle Eastern cultures (mainly Sufi) to Western Europe.

When information migrates it's like telling a joke for the first time and hearing the same joke after it had made the rounds... still funny (sometimes even more funny), but definitely altered.

The Enneagram the way most of us have learned it has some aspects emphasized at the expense of other aspects. Going back to traditional sources before our teachers, before Naranjo, before Ichazo and before Gurdjieff, we find that the basic truisms we lean on have been known and very effectively used by our ancestors for centuries.

Frederic and Bernadette are proposing an “additional” perspective that fleshes out our current models for a more robust understanding of human nature, with special emphasis on body and soul and the spirit that holds them together. This is an important milestone indeed.

Special thanks to **Fabrice Nye** for his help with translating from the French original.

“The Perfectionist-Adventurer (One-Seven)

Couple” from **Jennifer Schneider** and **Ron Corn's** *Understand Your Partner: The Essential Enneagram Guide to a Better Relationship*, is taking on these two opposites in many ways but with the potential to give the other a better sense of wholeness and happiness in the world.

Adventurers have the energy to really rise to the occasion in situations where others might consider it stressful. They can see a complex life as an opportunity for welcomed variety. They like to be on the go, keep busy, and can re-frame a crisis as a big adrenaline rush. Adventurers are high-energy people who can see every situation as interesting and full of options. Perfectionists on the other hand tend to be overly serious and could learn from Adventurers how to be flexible and spontaneous, enjoy life and have fun.

Ones, like Sevens, are lifetime learners and appreciate that trait in each other. Ones can use the Seven's energy when they get discouraged at “the mess the world is in.” In exchange, they offer to the Seven a lesson in discipline and follow-through. Ones will hold the Seven's feet a little (if you ask the One, a lot if you ask the Seven) to the fire about completing tasks they find boring. Sevens like the stability that Ones bring to their lives, and appreciate their reliability and commitment to the relationship.

Ones often seem worried that they may not be fun enough for their Seven partners. And Sevens can be confused about the deeper values in life and want to play the field, but with maturity and after a taste of the Seven's “dread of impermanence,” they discover

how life just works better with a stabilizing influence. Love and respect are key issues for the Perfectionist, not to mention standards...

Susan Rhodes published “The Enneagram of Life Paths” soon after she began writing for the *EM* (Jan. 2007), because she saw the enneagram as a deeper, richer and more complex than other systems for understanding individual differences. She has always had a particular interest in focusing on the deeper aspects of human motivation and how the enneagram can help us understand not just the weaknesses of personality but our purpose in life. This is the article which set the stage for her three books, particularly *Archetypes of the Enneagram* (which focuses on the 27 subtypes as pointers to our dharma) and *The Integral Enneagram* (which uses the concept of dharma as way to link the enneagram with a more integrally-oriented perspective on evolution). We are republishing it in this issue because it is a fitting companion piece to the expanded view of the enneagram as discussed by Frederic and Bernadette Schmitt.

Somehow there has been a feeling of a “need for a change” in the air for some time and I believe the forces have come together and require a quantum shift. And it's not because it's our 20th anniversary; so what better way to do it than restoring the connection to our philosophical roots and seeing the individual in its wholeness of body mind and soul. •