

IN MEMORIAM

Pierre Weil, PhD

By Adam Blatner

Pierre Weil, the founder of UNIPAZ, Peace University, was a great psychodramatist. He won the UNESCO Prize for Education for Peace using Psychodrama Methods.

To learn more about this incredible man, his work and life, go to:
www.pierreweil.pro.br/USA.htm



“Pierre Weill, PhD, was born in Colmar, Alsace, France, on 15 April 1924, and died in his home in Brazil on 8 October, 2008. After obtaining a doctorate in psychology from Paris University, he emigrated early to Brazil and taught at Belo Horizonte University. Weill was the first to introduce psychodrama in Brazil and also trained staff in banks and other businesses. His major effort in his later years was the creation of Unipaz, the university for peace in Brazil. He taught action methods for peace in Brazil, Portugal, France, and other countries. Weill received a special prize from UNESCO for his work for peace in the world, peace in family, peace among neighbors. I (Anne) knew him well, because he has been a student of mine before becoming a long-time friend. He was a deeply spiritual person and he spent three years, three months and three weeks in a Buddhist Ashram.

Dr. Weill was married twice, first in France, and his second marriage was in Brazil. Each year he returned to France to visit his daughter near Toulouse. He also often came to visit me in Paris in March for my birthday. His eyesight was poor in 2007 so did not come to Europe since that time; however, he emailed me a week ago. Pierre Weil and I published some books together in Brazil and also around 1960 he invited to come and teach psychodrama in Brazil with Léa Pedro. Pierre had a very rich and fruitful life. Be at Peace dear Pierre.”

*Your lifelong friend,
Anne Ancelin Schutzenberger (89 years old),
French Psychodrama Pioneer*

“Pierre Weil's death is a great loss, not only for our community, but also for the world. He had a rich spirit, a large view of life and dedicated himself to humanity and peace. I will miss his not being here but he will live in my heart.”

Love, Zerka

“The news of Pierre Weil's death saddened me extremely. Beside his merits for peace and psychodrama, I remember him as a deeply spiritual person. He was born in Strasbourg as was my mother and sharing warm feelings for that city gave us a sort of "co-unconscious" or rather "a richer co-conscious" in addition to other mutual interests we used to discuss. I had so much hoped to see him again in Rome.... Remembering him forever I join the large group mourning him.”

Grete Leutz

“I remember Pierre Weil most from the IAGP Congress in Copenhagen where we had a meeting trying to establish the First International Psychodrama Association. This was in the 1980's. Someone took offense that we were all speaking in English and quereyed whether we could talk Quebecquois, where this participant was from in Canada. Doreen Elefthey got up and said, "Well I was raised in Wales, does that mean we all have to speak Gaelic?" Pierre was sitting one seat in front of me. He put his head in his hands and moaned, "Poor humanity." A quiet observation in a chaotic moment but I was struck by the globality of his comment and his concern. He was one to see the bigger picture in a humble way. We were rich with his presence and we will miss him.”

Marcia Karp

“I only met Pierre Weil once in Portugal several years ago and he impressed me a lot: wise, humble, not talkative but full of visions. After that meeting I started to read some of his publications. I just want to share with you one of his "fabulas" = little stories which I like very much reflecting his style of thinking and teaching peace:

The tale of the colibri: Once upon a time there was a fire in the wood. All the animals ran away desperately. Only the colibri (a type of hummingbird) chose the opposite direction. He took water with his beak from a nearby lake and threw it into the fire. An armadillo, intrigued by his procedure, asked him, "Colibri, do you really think that you can put out the fire? The colibri answered him: "I am sure that I cannot put out the fire alone, but I am doing my part.”

Jorge Burmeister, IAGP Past President