

HISTORY KEEPER

— In Memoriam: William L. Moreno —

1892-1976

Joseph Moreno, MT, MA, MME



There are few who realize the full extent of William Moreno's contributions to J. L. Moreno's life and the development of his innovative approaches to psychotherapy. Too often, when recognized at all, they tend to focus on the financial side. These contributions, while certainly significant, were only part of a much larger picture. William Moreno (Joseph's father and

Jacob's younger brother) provided the primary funding for J. L. Moreno's theaters. This went back to the post-medical school time in Vienna, as well as fifteen years later at Moreno's hospital in Beacon (upstate New York) and studio / theaters in New York City. Psychodrama is a form of therapy that cannot be fully conveyed in book form, but rather needs to be seen and experienced, which requires a stage or at least a large open space. These venues undoubtedly provided Jacob with the essential exposure he needed to achieve the eventual broad professional recognition for himself and his work.

William was not a millionaire, rather a generous funder of his brother's work. However having someone believe in you is even more powerful!

J.L. referred to his brother as his "muse" in his autobiography and pointed out that William was the only one in their family that supported and believed in his work. Another consideration is that there was a tradition in Europe at that time, when there were brothers in families of limited means, that only the oldest brother would have the opportunity for higher education. So, from a young age, William was pushed into office work and never had a chance to develop his talents into a meaningful career. Business was never a choice for him: he never had a choice! Whatever income he earned in those early years was given to help support their extended family.



While William was working, J.L. had the opportunity to attend university and graduate from medical school. As a result, William was never able to have a creative professional life of his own. However, rather than resenting his secondary position, William did everything in his power to support J.L. in every possible way for a period of around seventy years.

William also supported other Moreno family members, such as Florence Bridge after the divorce, a sister Charlotte who stayed in Romania, and their mother, Pauline, in New York. There might have been a "William L.", an inherently creative man, as well known as "Jacob L" in whatever field he might have chosen for his life's work, but William never had that chance. As J.L.'s son, Jonathan, has often stated, "Without William there would not have been a J.L." William was also like a father to Moreno's daughter, Gina.

William's legacy was also furthered by the contributions of his son, Joseph (www.morenoinnermusic.com <<https://linkprotect.cud-asvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.morenoinnermusic.com&c=E,1,cUlyIFYFrWfYljVWQt-MXyYyYaAqU1e2P0m6Cvzw->

[GJa7c3l9CAvnMubC4vczCH3CeBRpiH0jJDg8kCQPBYBGUyy8kjAs3sHVMlmjgImxQwyLVa1y0w.&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cud-asvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.morenoinnermusic.com&c=E,1,cUlyIFYFrWfYljVWQt-MXyYyYaAqU1e2P0m6Cvzw-GJa7c3l9CAvnMubC4vczCH3CeBRpiH0jJDg8kCQPBYBGUyy8kjAs3sHVMlmjgImxQwyLVa1y0w.&typo=1)>).

Joseph is an internationally recognized authority and presenter on music therapy with a special focus on "musical psychodrama". He is author of numerous articles and the books "Acting Your Inner Music: Music Therapy and Psychodrama" and "The Lives of Music Therapists: Profiles in Creativity".



The ASGPP has agreed upon the initiation of a William L. Moreno Award, the first of which will be presented to Prof. Joseph Moreno on behalf of his father at the ASGPP Annual Conference in Manchester, NH, 2019.