

IN MEMORIAM

By Zerka Moreno

One of the most troubling events anyone can suffer is holes in one's network and close social atoms. So it's with great sadness that two of Moreno's and my students, each a star in their very own way, passed away this spring, leaving those holes.

Clare Danielsson

Clare Danielsson created Boughton Place in Highland, NY, a non-profit foundation which served a number of community activities. Clare supported organic farming, created a living community of residents in her house, started an extensive labyrinth on her grounds, taught in the Catholic community, worked and taught as a mediator in schools and accepted the Moreno-designed psychodrama stage to be part of Boughton Place when it was threatened by destruction as an exercise by the fire department of Beacon, NY, in 1986. That decision was not without strong opposition by the city of Beacon. She had the guts to stand up to that body, had the stage sawed into half, mounted on a truck and brought it to her site, to honor her former teacher.

For that brave act alone, the psychodrama community should financially support that theater; Rebecca Walters, Judy Swallow and others in the Mid-Hudson community are now dedicated to its continuation. It regularly serves not only psychodrama trainers who work there, but as a center for Playback Theater and other community-dedicated organizations.

Anything that can be contributed will support Moreno's inheritance and honor Clare's part in it.

Leif Dag Blomkvist

Another pioneer in psychodrama, a genius in his own right and contributor to the Moreno legacy was Leif Dag Blomkvist. Dag, or Daggis as he was sometimes known, a charismatic person, created and taught Surrealist Psychodrama, opening new paths for learning about and exploring human relations in terms of history, Greek mythology, fairy tales, surplus reality and surrealism. He started The Nordic Board of Examiners, based on our American Board but adjusted to the needs of European culture and laws, based in Sweden.

It is not generally known that at age seventeen, Dag had a theatrical troupe in Sweden. Sometimes the actors improvised on known plays. He and that troupe were invited to present their artistry in Poland.

It was his own interest as the leader of that group, after he graduated as a psychologist, that pulled him to Beacon when he learned of Moreno's work. He and J.L. often argued, had disagreements over various interpretations, but that did not deter his courageous heart. He stayed with the training and became a specialist in his own right.

He and I often worked together very harmoniously in a number of settings here and abroad. He declared himself to be really my student. It was his idea that we should publish some work together and that idea became the source for our joint book: *Psychodrama, Surplus Reality and the Art of Healing* in 2000. Dag put it into his computer but asked one of his students to edit it for the computer as he was still new at the technology at that time. He spread his work over the map of Europe and has left an indelible mark upon it and upon our hearts.

We are all less because of these losses.

Losing spiritual offspring is as hard as losing biological ones.

Zerka T. Moreno



Dr. Med. Helmuth Barz

17 September 1932 - 8 March, 2007

The psychodramatic community has lost this pioneer of psychodrama in Europe, especially in his integrating psychodrama with Jungian psychology there near the Jung institute in Zurich. Dr. Barz, a psychiatrist and neurologist, was one of the founding members of the Federation of European Psychodrama Training Organizations (FEPTO). He was the author of many books, articles and essays.

Adam Blatner, MD

CLARE DANIELSSON

Submitted by Mary Flad, friend and colleague

Clare Danielsson, co-founder and leader of Boughton Place, died at her home in Highland, New York on February 8, 2007 after a long illness. She is survived by her adopted son, Andre Senay, of Erie, Pennsylvania. Clare Danielsson was a visionary figure who influenced and led many community organizations in the Hudson Valley. For fifteen years, until her retirement in 2002, she held the position of Executive Director of Ulster Sullivan Mediation, a non-profit community mediation center. Under her leadership, Boughton Place became the home for many diverse programs and projects - workshops and training in group psychotherapy and psychodrama, events concerning ecology and Native American traditions, and discussions based on the "Personalist Communitarian" traditions of the Catholic Worker movement and its leaders, Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day.

Clare was born in New York City in 1935. She was an only child, and her parents, Otilie and August Danielsson, were immigrants from northern Germany who had come to the United States in the early 1920s. She completed a Bachelor's degree at Sarah Lawrence College, and a Master's at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, preparing for a career as a teacher. During her college years, she became acquainted with the Catholic Worker, the Young People's Socialist League, and other groups in New York City which were concerned with economic inequities in American society, the threat of nuclear war, opposition to military service, and other social issues.

Clare Danielsson was married for four years in the early 1960s to Seymour Melman, Columbia University economist whose analyses of the social costs of military spending provided a major impetus for the antiwar movement from the mid-20th century onward. He was one of the founders of the Institute for Policy Studies.

In the mid-1960s, the issue of religion and faith became central in Clare's life, and, with encouragement

from Dorothy Day, she became a Catholic and was baptized in 1967. Beginning in 1969, Clare became a resident at the Catholic Worker farm in Tivoli, and lived there for five years. Although her initial motivation for moving to the farm was to learn more about Catholicism, the place became for her an opportunity to observe social conflict, social networks and community formation, themes that remained central to her life and work.

After leaving Tivoli in 1974, she trained as a psychotherapist, and received certification in 1978 from the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy. During this same period Clare studied for the doctorate through the Union Graduate School of the Union of Experimenting Colleges and Universities, with the noted eco-theologian Thomas Berry as her advisor. Her doctoral dissertation is entitled "The Intimate Community Experience: An Experiment in Social Reorganization Based Upon Sociometry and Christian Tradition." She completed her degree in 1979. In 1980, she acquired property in Highland, and in cooperation with Sister Adrian Hofstetter, a Dominican nun, established Boughton Place.

Clare served on the Board of Directors of Mohonk Consultations, the New York State Dispute Resolution Association, and the Phillies Bridge Farm Project, among others. Boughton Place has continued to be the setting in which Clare Danielsson has given shape to her dreams for a better world. Among the programs and organizations that have used the site are the following: Community Playback Theater; Hudson Valley Psychodrama Institute; the American Society for Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama; Home Sharing Opportunities of Ulster County; and the Central and Latin American Support Project. Boughton Place is the site of the original Moreno Theatre, a training center for Psychodrama, and of the TimeLine Garden Labyrinth, a setting for sharing stories, meditation and discussion on earth ecology, peace, and the co-creative process.