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streams which are often not conscious. These are "stories which tell us." As Dr. Hollis quoted from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, "No prison is more confined than the ones we know not we are caught in."

Then, on the "big" level, the cultural level, we are shaped both consciously and unconsciously by mythology – the big foundational stories, often the sacred stories, the wisdom stories of each particular culture, each particular civilization. Think about these foundational stories as we examine current events in our world. Are we acting out the old stories? Remember, as Joseph Campbell said, "Myths are public dreams."

Paraphrasing Carl Jung's famous statement, "...Where did the gods go when they left Mt. Olympus? They entered the solar plexus of the moderns..." James Hollis explained they became our neuroses...the "gods" are the *energies*, their *names* are the husks....and for the moment our neuroses, our complexes carry these big energies....both personally and culturally.

So here, in our little magazine, our goal is to enrich our lives, to help us find meaning in what can seem like a chaotic world, to connect us to one another, and to connect us to our various cultural histories and energies.

In this issue, Honora Foah welcomes us, as she discusses wildness and wilderness, creativity, and captivity. We discuss with Honora and Dahlan Foah our ongoing Mythic Imagination project, "Creativity in Captivity," which began with our recent production (with Emory University's Center for Ethics) of "Testaments of the Heart," a concert of music written by prisoners of the Nazis during the Holocaust. The interview includes a discussion about the roots of today's situation in the Middle East. We feature an essay, "A Delicate Balance," by Jeanna Collins on education about the Holocaust which features poems by children, and we announce "The Witches of Lublin," a new radio show, which informs us about the history of many European Jews pre – Holocaust, plus it brings us the story of wild and beautiful klezmer music from that time. It features Ellen Kushner, a Mythic Journeys presenter.



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A Letter from the Editor

Writing today, I am thinking about last week's Jung Society of Atlanta seminar. James Hollis, Ph.D., spoke to us about "Stories Told, Stories Untold, and Stories That Tell Us." And that's really what we are about here at Mythic Imagination.

Our Mythic Journeys™ conferences have at their center "The Big Conversations" with interdisciplinary discussions about life's big issues, about our metaphors, our search for meaning, for beauty. Our magazine focuses on stories, both personal stories and these "big" stories. Some are told in poems, some in folk tales, some in music, in art, in interviews, in essays, in fiction...wherever the creative spirit, the human imagination finds expression.

When we think about the meaning of "mythology" itself, the etymology indicates *muthos* from the Greek, a story, a tale. *Muthos* also sounds like our English word, "mother," and although I can find no etymological connection, I feel a connection. In a way, myth, story is our mother tongue. Both on a personal level and on a cultural level, we are shaped by mythology.

On a personal level, the myths are the stories from our family of origin; those told to us when we were young, plus those we tell, both to ourselves and to the world, to explain ourselves, to define ourselves. And underneath it all are streams of stories and assumptions about ourselves,



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Staying with the Middle East, we celebrate Egypt's people with a historical essay by Anya Martin and a dream-like essay by Janet Piedilato which both refer to Egyptian mythology. Considering Iraq's history, we bring you an essay about Gilgamesh and Enkidu by William Doty.

One of our Mythic Journeys presenters, David Abram, has written a new book, *Becoming Animal*, and we quote an excerpt which describes an encounter in the wilderness with "the wild," a story he told at Mythic Journeys '06. It's all about connections: earth, human, animals, and language, and the excitement found there.

Our main poems for this issue are by Bill Holm from his book, *Chain Letter of the Soul*, with his vivid images from nature. "Finnish Charms" by K.A. Laity also includes poetry from the *Kalevala* and *Kanteletar*.

Another Mythic Journeys presenter, Michael Meade has written a new book, *Fate and Destiny*, from which we excerpt a story about "What Not to Forget." He asks, while you are alive here on earth, are you living *your* story? The story you came to tell?

Then, we have a discussion with our newest contributor, Jay Wilson, about his story – his life and his art.

We hope you enjoy and find meaning in this issue!

By **Mary Davis**

Editor

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Our themes for 2011 include our ongoing Creativity in Captivity thread. We have begun exploring the impact of slavery on this nation for our next issues.

In addition, the themes for 2011 will continue to focus on nature:

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|--------|---------------------------|
| Summer | • Midsummer Night's Dream |
| Fall | • Harvest of the Soul |
| Winter | • Winter Dreaming |



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