

Proposals are invited with a deadline for submission of Feb. 1, 2018. To submit a proposal, provide a 250-word abstract, plus a 100-word statement of biographical background and contact information. Proposals should be submitted to: mpl@mymasterpieceliving.com

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THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE

"The truth that will set us free in the last half of our lives is not to be found in ego complexification. Consciousness has a developmental quality in the first half. In our old age it grows through disenvelopment. It moves backward. It is a regression in the service of transcendence.

Methuselah moves toward the sublime organization of Echo, who can be aware of the experience of living and dying...

Methuselah-and-Echo is the middle-aged self. One part is suddenly feeling the presence of a very old man within, and the other part goes to heal that old man, to bring him into the garden rather than leave him in the corner. This act of embracing the one who is dying is the act of allowing the experience of dying into consciousness. Methuselah in the self is the entropy that culture has never allowed us to acknowledge... It is Methuselah who has been with us from the beginning of middle age."

(George Bouklas, Psychotherapy with the Elderly: Becoming Methuselah's Echo)

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

(From "Simple Gifts," a Shaker song written in 1848)

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SEEING OLD AGE

"At 76, I often feel as if I were a 5-year-old being patted on the head (I'm also small in stature). We are spoken to in the slow, monosyllabic tones of 'elderspeak,' and we are often ignored at public meetings or checkout counters. We often internalize negative judgments about ourselves and experience challenges to our self-esteem....

I don't want to be judged by the criterion of how 'young' I am. Not only am I bound to fail by that standard, but my history matters. It has made me increasingly complex; I see more broadly and understand what I see more deeply. Please think of that if you are ever tempted to slight, judge or render invisible that old woman or man you encounter."

From Letter to the Editor of NY Times, in response to "Are You Old? Infirm? Then Kindly Disappear" by Martha Holstein, author of *Women in Late Life: Critical Perspectives on Gender and Age*. Full text at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/27/opinion/elderly-disabled.html? r=0>

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APPRECIATING GUILT

Guilt--- The Jews invented it; the Catholics perfected it; and the Protestants turned it into the work ethic.

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WEB SITES TO SEE

CONSCIOUS AGING. Listen to "Ram Dass on Conscious Aging" at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ4h1XMiuts>

INTERVIEWS. See "The Past Is Not 'Was,' It 'Is': Conversations With Scholars of Age" at:

<http://ageculturehumanities.org/WP/the-past-is-not-was-it-is-interviews-with-scholars-of-age/>

CAN WE OVERCOME AGEISM? For a dialogue on this subject, see responses from Margaret Gullette, Ashton Applewhite, and others to an article on this question that appeared recently in The New Yorker:

<https://thischairrocks.com/2017/11/27/the-new-yorker-magazines-ageist-take-on-ageism/>

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BOOKS OF INTEREST

INTERGENERATIONAL PATHWAYS TO A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY,
by M. Kaplan, M. Sanchez, and J. Hoffman (Springer, 2017).

THE NEW SENIOR MAN, by Thelma Reiss and Barbara Fleisher (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017). For more on this book, visit:
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/discussing-retirement-with-thelma-reese_us_5a258901e4b04dacbc9bd975

LANDSCAPES OF AGING AND SPIRITUALITY, by Kathleen Montgomery (Skinner House, 2015)

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COMING EVENTS

INNOVATION: Time to Innovate for Ageing. Launch Reception. (Jan. 16, 2018, London, UK). Sponsored by the International Longevity Centre of the UK. Details at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/time-to-innovate-for-ageing-launch-reception-tickets-41073162936?ref=ebtn>

CLIMATE CHANGE: Webinar (Jan. 17, 2018). "Climate Change: Can Elders Make a Difference for our Grandchildren and Future Generations?" 5:00-7:00 pm EDT/ 2:00-4:00 pm PDT in North America. For details and registration visit:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=thw4kyfab&oeidk=a07eericczcda78d365>

AGE WITHOUT BORDERS: Web Summit Conference (Jan. 20-26, 2018). Join Kari Henley, Producer and Host, along with Moira Allen, Jan Hively, Bruce Frankel, and other leaders in this web conference promoting a vision of positive aging. For details and registration visit: <http://awbcaregiving.com/>

