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# DREAMTIME

M A G A Z I N E

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# Remembering Jeremy Taylor

IASD Co-Founder (Jan 27, 1943 - Jan 3, 2018)

Nancy Grace



On January 3, Jeremy Taylor died unexpectedly, just two days after his beloved wife Kathy passed away from complications of a blood infection. Their daughter Tristy reported that the coroner said Jeremy's death was a "textbook broken heart." Jeremy and Kathy had been together for almost 60 years, and as fellow IASD co-founder Patricia Garfield told me, "Jeremy's love for Kathy was apparent to all who knew him." From the beginning of the 25 years I knew Jeremy, it certainly was ever-apparent to me. Though it's still hard for me to take in that he's really gone, it would be even harder to imagine him here without Kathy. And knowing how involved she was in managing the myriad aspects of

his dreamwork career, any tribute to Jeremy is also a tribute to Kathy.

Jeremy was one of the four founders of IASD, along with Gayle Delaney, Patricia Garfield, and Strephon Kaplan-Williams. He was President from 1994-95, and received the IASD's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. He's been a regular presenter at IASD conferences for many years, a vocal advocate for ethical and effective dream education, and a supporter of certification for dreamwork training.

**BEGINNING DREAMWORK** Jeremy's career got its start in the late 1960s in the California Bay Area. He was leading a training on overcoming racism for well-meaning White community workers who had been thrown out of a Black neighborhood due to their unconscious racism. Despite best efforts, after many weeks the group was about to disband in defeat, concluding that effectively overcoming racism was impossible. But Jeremy got the idea to suggest the group try one more thing at their next meeting: to share any remembered dreams that had overt racial content. He was inspired by the success he and his wife Kathy had had in seeing the unconscious sexism in their relationship more clearly when sharing dreams about it, and it proved to be the turning point for the group. Through discussing their dreams, they were finally able to see and let go of unconsciously held racist ideas, in ways that were demonstrably noticeable when they returned to the Black community.

Excited by the success of dreamsharing, Jeremy went on from there to spend a decade working at Saint George Homes, a residential treatment program for schizophrenic youth, where he continued to work with dreams and learn about the healing potential of dreamwork. It was around the end of his years at St. George Homes that Jeremy was ordained a minister in the Unitarian-Universalist church, and dreamwork became his ministry.

**GROUP PROJECTIVE DREAMWORK** The core of Jeremy's legacy is the dreamwork process he created and came to call "group projective dreamwork." Jeremy was a tireless advocate for the importance of understanding projection, and while acknowledging that his process is but one among many useful ways of exploring dreams, he believed it was the best place to start. His group process is a respectful, egalitarian approach to dreamwork that is accessible and easy to learn. It also offers an antidote to the isolating individualism that permeates Western culture, by creating community and connection around the things that matter most in our lives, which are regularly revealed when discussing dreams.

**THE DREAMWORK TOOLKIT** As Jeremy traveled far and wide, he brought with him his "Dreamwork Toolkit," a 1-page teaching tool and handout of the six main points he believed are all anyone needs to engage in effective and ethical dreamwork. The first point includes the idea for which Jeremy is probably best-known: that all dreams come in the service of health and wholeness.

**IF IT WERE MY DREAM?** For much of Jeremy's career, the phrase in the Toolkit's fifth point was "If it were my dream . . .", rather than the current "In my imagined version of the dream . . .". While not objecting to the continued use of "if it were my dream," Jeremy came to see that "In my imagined version of the dream" more accurately reflects the process of projection taking place when we hear another's dream: we have no choice but to imagine our own version of it.

**"THE JOHNNY APPLESEED OF DREAMWORK"** is how many people came to think of Jeremy. It is an apt moniker, for the range of places and number of people with whom he has sown the seeds of dreamwork is indeed far-reaching. He taught dreamwork for almost 50 years, travelling the United States and beyond to many other countries as well. In his adopted state of California (Jeremy was raised in Buffalo, NY) he taught at places including Starr King School for the Ministry, the Institute of Culture and Creation Spirituality (later the University of Creation Spirituality), the John F. Kennedy University Dream Studies Certificate Program, the Sonoma State Depth Psychology Masters program, St. Mary's College, the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology (now Sofia University), the Chaplaincy Institute, and even San Quentin prison. Jeremy was also a pioneer of online dreamwork.

Beyond California, Jeremy led dream workshops bi-annually at Rowe Center in Massachusetts beginning in 1981; taught for 20 years at the Haden Institute in North Carolina; and co-taught workshops in Colorado with fellow dreamworker Billie Ortiz for 12 years. This is in addition to weekend workshops, lectures, and dream-focused church sermons spanning decades, in places too numerous to count.

**THE MIPD** In 2002, Jeremy launched the Marin Institute for Projective Dreamwork, responding to the need for structured training that leads to a standard credential, for people who wish to teach dreamwork professionally. Approximately 150-200 people have been through the program.

**Books** Jeremy wrote four books, and seven colorful, entertaining graphic novels with his own illustrations, all on aspects of dreams, dreamwork, mythology, and archetypes. He also co-authored *Dream Images* (2012), a book which combines his insights about archetypal dream symbols with the beautiful photography of Diane Farris. The graphic novels can all be previewed for free at [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com).

**2018 CONFERENCE TRIBUTES** At the upcoming IASD conference this June in Scottsdale, Arizona, there will be a panel presentation honoring Jeremy, as well as a bulletin board for pictures and a table for memorabilia. All are invited to bring photos and other items to contribute.

**JEREMY'S LEGACY** will be kept alive at a dream research center Kelly Bulkeley is building outside of Portland, Oregon, where Jeremy's

vast library of scholarly papers and books on dreams, mythology, religion, Jungian psychology, archetypes, poetry and more will be housed, and available to the public for viewing. And Jeremy's work will be carried on around the world by the many people who use his method of projective dreamwork, both in structured dream groups, and in spontaneous everyday conversations about dreams.



**"I'm not sure any single person has devoted more of his life's creative energy to the cause of increasing public awareness of dreaming than Jeremy." ~Kelly Bulkeley**

**"Instead of being assigned to a specific church as a pastor, Jeremy saw the dream appreciation movement, as represented by IASD, as his calling. His many books, articles, and workshops elevated the spirituality of thousands of people." ~Stan Krippner**

**"I will always be grateful for this kind, generous and wise man for the ways he enriched my life. For every dreamer that I work with, there is a part of Jeremy with me working with them too." ~Justina Lasley**

**Nancy Grace** learned about IASD from Jeremy Taylor in 1992, and has been a member ever since. She's served IASD as treasurer, board member, and conference host. She's taught about dreams for over 25 years, and leads dream groups using Jeremy's projective group process. She's also a musician and artist.

# The Dreamwork Tool Kit

## Six Basic Hints for Dream Work

© Jeremy Taylor 2013

### One

All dreams speak a universal language and come in the service of health and wholeness. There is no such thing as a “bad dream” -- only dreams that sometimes take a dramatically negative form in order to grab our attention.

### Two

Only the dreamer can say with any certainty what meanings his or her dream may have. This certainty usually comes in the form of a wordless “aha!” of recognition. This “aha” is a function of memory, and is the only reliable touchstone of dream work.

### Three

There is no such thing as a dream with only one meaning. All dreams and dream images are “overdetermined,” and have multiple meanings and layers of significance.

### Four

No dreams come just to tell you what you already know. All dreams break new ground and invite you to new understandings and insights.

### Five

When talking to others about their dreams, it is both wise and polite to preface your remarks with words to the effect of “in my imagined version of the dream...” and to keep this commentary in the first person as much as possible. This means that even relatively challenging comments can be made in such a way that the dreamer may actually be able to hear and internalize them. It also can become a profound psycho-spiritual discipline -- “walking a mile in your neighbor’s moccasins.”

### Six

All dream group participants should agree at the outset to maintain anonymity in all discussions of dream work. In the absence of any specific request for confidentiality, group members should be free to discuss their experiences openly outside the group, provided no other dreamer is identifiable in their stories. However, whenever any group member requests confidentiality, all members should agree to be bound automatically by such a request.

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