

MYTHIC PASSAGES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MYTHIC IMAGINATION INSTITUTE
A NON-PROFIT ARTS AND EDUCATION CORPORATION

COPYRIGHT 2005

April 2005

Update from Michael Karlin

President of Mythic Imagination Institute

Welcome to the new monthly edition of *Passages*, the Mythic Imagination Institute newsletter. We're changing our format so that we may communicate with you on a more frequent basis. The newsletter will be shorter, and you will receive it on a monthly basis, around the middle of every month.



We've been extremely busy here at MII. In the last 90 days we have kicked into full gear to plan *Mythic Journeys 2006*. There is something magical about *Mythic Journeys*. Planning the inaugural event was, as Joseph Campbell used to say, as if invisible hands were guiding us and opening doors for us where no one thought doors even existed. The same is happening now, but exponentially so. The number of synchronicities that are occurring for the organization at this time is remarkable. They are too numerous to count, and have become so commonplace that they are just a way of life. It is taking everything we have to stay on top of all of the new opportunities. As things unfold, we will be keeping you up to date on our progress through *Passages*.

Mythic Journeys

The *Mythic Journeys* Conference and Performance Festival will take place June 9-11, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia. Once again, we will also feature a two-day pre-conference, *Mythic Journeys: In-Depth* on June 8-9. We're dramatically reducing the cost of the pre-conference to allow more people to attend. It was such an amazing experience; we want more people to be able to afford it. *Mythic Journeys: In-Depth* will still be limited to 250 attendees to preserve the intimacy of the gathering, while *Mythic Journeys* will be opened to 1,500 attendees.

The *Mythic Journeys* planning committee has been actively working on themes, speakers, performers and logistics. Please take a look at www.mythicimagination.org to stay updated with our progress. To date, we have confirmed over 50 guest speakers and there are an additional 25 to 30 with whom we're still negotiating. We'll be announcing new guests over the course of the next few months. We have many great surprises in store,

and we'll announce them as they are confirmed. Registration will be on-line this June, so check back for early registration discounts.

Partners & Sponsors

We have been doing a tremendous amount of work in creating partnerships and securing sponsors. We strongly believe that we can't do it all ourselves; Mythic Imagination Institute can have the greatest impact on the world by partnering. Too often organizations like ours become too enamored with their own star. They fail to step back and see their place as part of a beautiful constellation - a constellation far more beautiful than any individual star.

Most of our original partners from 2004 are still our partners, including the Joseph Campbell Foundation, the MARIAL Center at Emory University, PARABOLA Magazine, and Journey Into Wholeness, and many more. We have been working on broadening and deepening those relationships. Please visit www.mythicjourneys.org/partners.html to see the entire constellation. We have many more partnerships in progress that will significantly broaden our reach, and we will announce those partnerships as they are completed. Each newsletter will introduce you to some of our partners and/or sponsors.

This month we're announcing a new partnership and a new sponsor. We are pleased that **The Mosaic Multicultural Foundation**, (www.mosaicvoices.org) led by our friend, advisor and MJ presenter **Michael Meade**, has become a partner. Mosaic seeks to create cross-cultural alliances, mentoring relationships and social connections built upon personal trust and commitment to bridging unhealthy divisions in contemporary communities. Mosaic will be helping us program a more culturally diverse group of presenters and performers for *Mythic Journeys 2006*. We are delighted that they will be helping us.

We're also pleased to announce that Pacifica Graduate Institute has become a Titan Level sponsor. The mission of Pacifica Graduate Institute is to provide graduate degree programs and to foster research in the fields of psychology and mythological studies framed in the traditions of depth psychology. Many of Pacifica's faculty presented at *Mythic Journeys 2004*, and many of their alumni and students attended the conference. Steve Aizenstat and his whole team at Pacifica have been incredibly supportive of our efforts, and we are very pleased to broaden and deepen this relationship.

Education

Jeanna Collins, our Education Committee Chair, has done a superb job of assembling an Education Committee with 25 K-12 educators from around the country. They have been meeting in person and discussing plans via e-mail for several months now. They are working on several specific initiatives.

Community

One of the central missions of the Mythic Imagination Institute is to foster community. As such, we are currently working on revitalizing our on-line presence to enable and nurture that community. We are working on a beta community website that we hope to launch in the next 90 days. You'll find more details about that initiative in our next *Passages* newsletter.

Radio Program

Many of you were fortunate enough to hear the two-hour Public Radio International broadcast of *Mythic Journeys*, the radio program with highlights and interviews from the 2004 conference and performance festival celebrating Joseph Campbell's Centenary. The program was exceptional and received rave reviews. We cannot sell the program, but we can give away a complimentary copy when you become a paid member of the Mythic Imagination Institute. To hear a preview of the program, visit the following area on the website.

<http://www.mythicjourneys.org/01RadioProgramClip.mp3>

Membership Drive

We had our first membership drive this past winter. Many of you participated and became members of the Mythic Imagination Institute. As a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization, we survive on your generosity. If you would like to become a member, and receive a complimentary CD version of *Mythic Journeys* the radio program, in addition to other benefits, please visit:

<http://www.mythicjourneys.org/membership.html>

I am excited that we will be communicating with you on a more regular basis. If you have ideas for articles or columns, or something you want to share, please e-mail it to passages@mythicjourneys.org. Have a terrific month!

Enjoy,

Michael Karlin
President