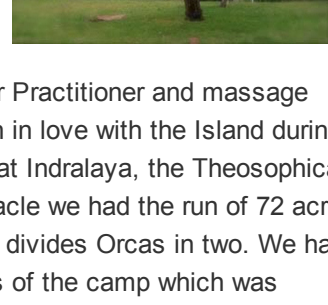
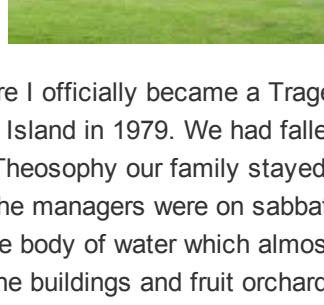
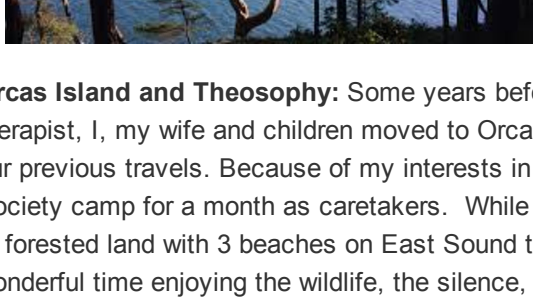
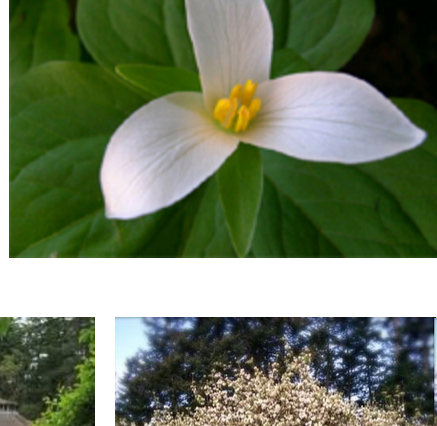




Presencing Issue 68
New Beginnings III
Opening the Doors of Healing
Dora Van Gelder Kunz

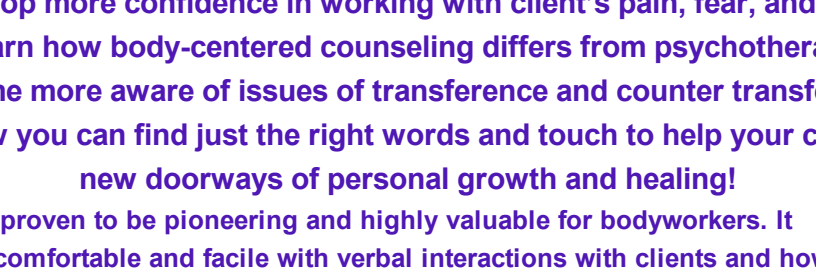


Orcas Island and Theosophy: Some years before I officially became a Trager Practitioner and massage therapist, I, my wife and children moved to Orcas Island in 1979. We had fallen in love with the Island during our previous travels. Because of my interests in Theosophy our family stayed at Indralaya, the Theosophical Society camp for a month as caretakers. While the managers were on sabbatical we had the run of 72 acres of forested land with 3 beaches on East Sound the body of water which almost divides Orcas in two. We had a wonderful time enjoying the wildlife, the silence, the buildings and fruit orchards of the camp which was established by the Theosophists in 1927. Most of the cabins, lodge, and buildings for classes, concerts, and other activities were constructed by volunteer labor in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. I immersed myself each day in the Theosophical library. I couldn't believe the range of spiritual literature and practices in which the Theosophists had engaged, starting in the second half of the 19th century. They were inclusive of practically all the world religions as well as inner practices off consciousness growth and expression. Because of my fascination with what I was learning from Theosophical writings, I became the secretary of the TS study group on the Island and the summer of 1980 I and my family became the resident managers of the camp.

Therapeutic Touch and Healing: I had already been exposed to Therapeutic Touch and knew of Dora Kunz by reputation. My family and I finally got to meet Dora when she came to lead the Therapeutic Touch pre-camp which consisted mostly of nurses and doctors and island and off-island healees with severe illnesses, whom had been invited to attend as patients. The end of that summer we were to learn that my wife Jacky had a serious case of chronic myelogenous leukemia with a 3 month to 3 year life expectancy. She and I were both 39 years old. As a result I took Therapeutic Touch very seriously. I had already heard hours of Dora's talks about healing and we joined an Island-based TT healing group of 7 healees and their partners. It was an amazing healing experience. We practiced TT every week as a group for three years. All the healees in that circle lived full lives and though each had some medical intervention, those lives were quite remarkable. Jacky lived until 76!

Bodywork and Care Giving: This was the beginning of my life as a care giver. I managed the Orcas medical center, helped revamp the emergency medical system, did kidney dialysis, and hospice work. I learned enough about Jacky's illness to enrol her in a very effective research project using human alpha interferon. In addition to Trager I learned many other systems. I started working professionally in 1986 and combined my practice as an LMT with many clients who had serious illnesses. Because of my association with Dora Kunz and other notable healers over the years I became convinced that our profession as hands-on bodyworkers was destined to become a source for new understandings of body, mind, and consciousness with Presencing as the unifying factor in creating personal healing and transformation. Recently in these newsletters I have been saying more about healing. I'm intentionally trying to enlist you my colleagues in the appreciation and uniqueness of hands-on healing.

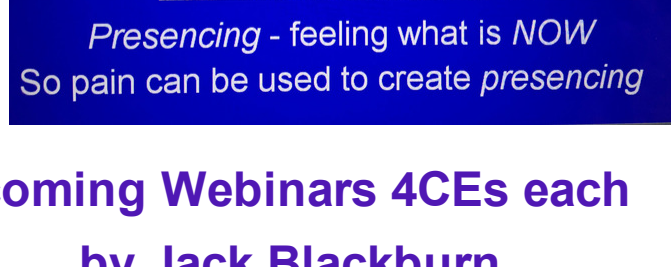
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TABLE TALKING - THE MISSING PIECE IN BODYWORK



- You will: Learn skills to read and interpret the language of the body.
 - Learn to conduct your sessions with a state of Presence.
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Register

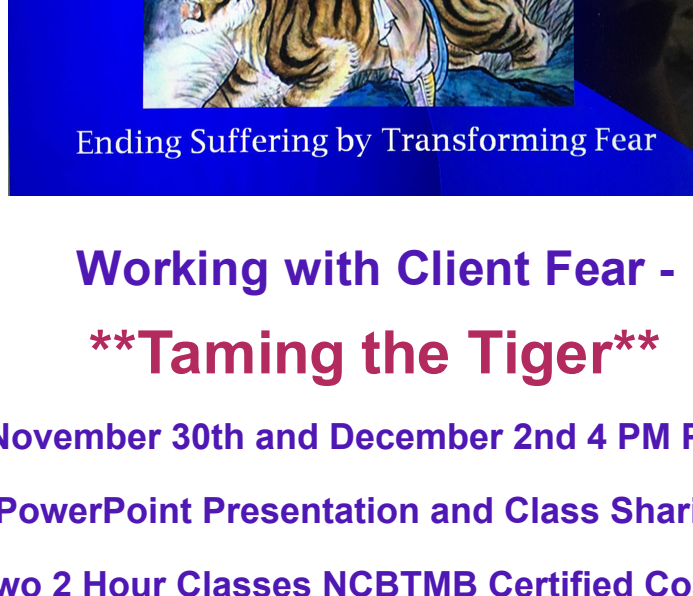
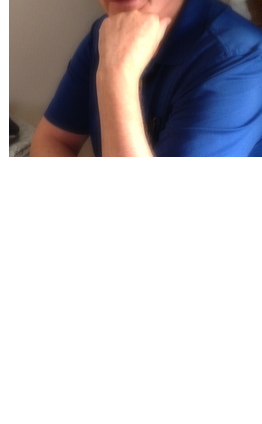
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Working with Client Pain

****Pain Transforms in Presence****
PowerPoint Presentation and Class Sharing
November 16th and 18th 4 PM PST
Two Two Hour Classes NCBTMB Certified Cost \$40

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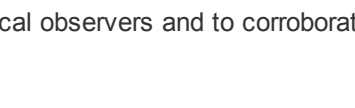


Working with Client Fear -
****Taming the Tiger****

November 30th and December 2nd 4 PM PST
PowerPoint Presentation and Class Sharing
Two Two Hour Classes NCBTMB Certified Cost \$40

Register

Another Look at Healing I first met Dora Kunz in the summer of 1980 when I was on staff for the Therapeutic Touch Workshop for doctors and nurses at Indralaya, the Theosophical camp on Orcas Island. Dora, along with Delores Krieger, was the founder of Therapeutic Touch, the method of energetic healing that was primarily being taught to medical practitioners at the time. I was already aware of her gifts by reputation. Clairvoyant from birth, not only does Dora have the ability to "see energy fields," but she also has the ability to interpret what she sees and to "hear" appropriate information for the persons. Dora was then president of the American Theosophical Society. She always had a scientific attitude towards her gifts and their applications. During the 1960s, Dora was involved in a study of healers by the Menninger Foundation. She used her gifts to observe what was happening energetically between famous healers and their subjects in healings conducted in the presence of medical observers and to corroborate the medical diagnoses of the patients before and after the sessions.



There are some very important themes which Dora focused on over the years with the Therapeutic Touch community. The first in is intentionality, that the healer's focus as a healing instrument as a clearly held thought form, is very important. Second, centeredness of the therapist is essential to prevent confusion of the therapist's material with that of the client. The third and perhaps most important is detachment. The less the healer is personally involved in the outcome of the healing, the more effective an instrument he/she can be. If the healer is distracted by the disease or the personal condition of the healee, there is a strong possibility that the healer will really be working on himself/herself, confusing empathy with sympathy.

A Healer's Wisdom – Dora Kunz

Don't heal others unless you are centered

If they are dying I tell them, so they can heal their lives

Touch is very important in the healing process

Hands have the ability to give and receive information

Both healer and healee are becoming whole

Don't get personally involved in the healing, be non-attached

Healers can often feel the collective human suffering

Death is a universal experience – everything physical dies

We are healing the whole person, including the physical

Come from heart center, unity

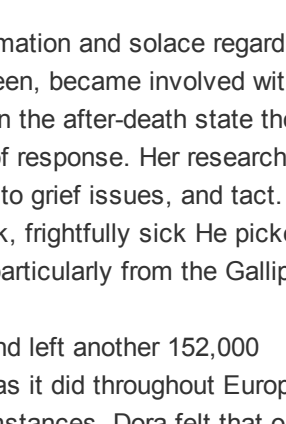
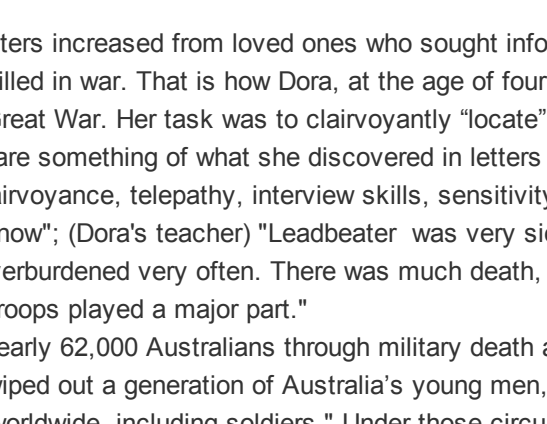
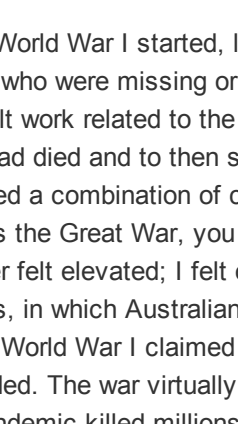
Through our practice of healing, we are changed

Clients need willingness to change

Universal healing spirit as a (force) in the universe

Spirit (force) of healing need not have anything to do with religion

Healers as "instruments"



Excerpt from: A Most Unusual Life by Kirsten van Gelder, Frank Chelsey, Quest Books. 2015

After World War I started, letters increased from loved ones who sought information and solace regarding those who were missing or killed in war. That is how Dora, at the age of fourteen, became involved with difficult work related to the Great War. Her task was to clairvoyantly "locate" in the after-death state those who had died and to then share something of what she discovered in letters of response. Her research required a combination of clairvoyance, telepathy, interview skills, sensitivity to grief issues, and tact. Dora: "It was the Great War, you know"; (Dora's teacher) "Leadbeater was very sick, frightfully sick He picked me. I never felt elevated; I felt overburdened very often. There was much death, particularly from the Gallipoli battles, in which Australian troops played a major part."

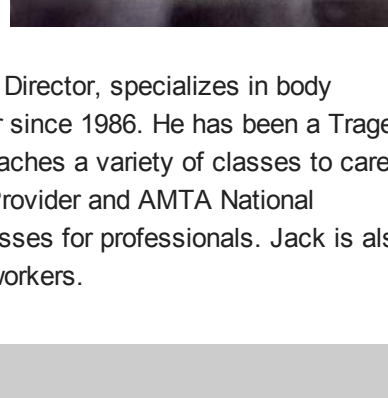
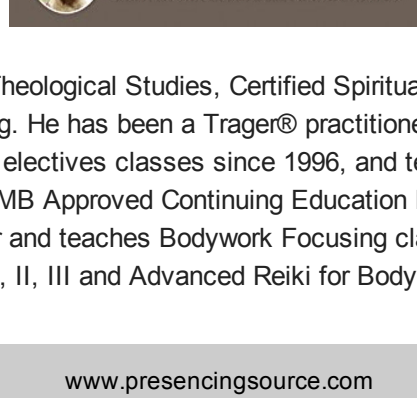
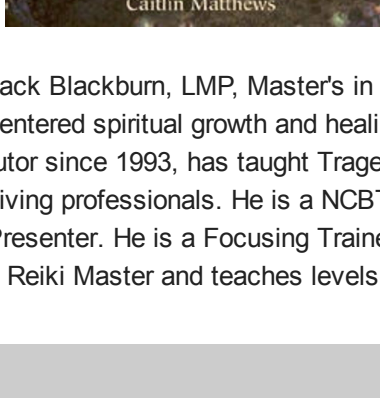
In all, World War I claimed nearly 62,000 Australians through military death and left another 152,000 wounded. The war virtually wiped out a generation of Australia's young men, as it did throughout Europe. The flu pandemic killed millions worldwide, including soldiers." Under those circumstances, Dora felt that one must do one's duty for the war effort. The assignment helped Dora in many ways; she developed her clairvoyant abilities, interview skills, and grit. It was emotionally heavy work. She had to learn how to assess the varying needs of the recently deceased, how to avoid distractions in the astral world, and how to describe sad events in ways that helped rather than overwhelmed grieving family members.

Leadbeater was not well enough to review Dora's work with her. But she perceived that as an indication of his trust in her, which gave her confidence. Dora: "At first I only [dictated] letters and after that I interviewed them; I had mastered the English language by that time. I interviewed quite a few people, not, I think, the first year. I was fifteen or sixteen [before] I interviewed them. I didn't write one letter; the secretary wrote them all, so the English, everything was correct."

Unlike doctors, nurses, or clergy, Dora could not hide behind a uniform or title when she interviewed soldiers who had died. She learned to be calm and caring and to keep from drawing back at the sight of injuries and violent deaths, an ability she diligently maintained throughout her lifetime. She also learned to keep confidences and not to divulge the names of people who asked for help. Dora: "I did a lot of clairvoyant investigations. And goodness, how many people lost their sons, their husbands. I had to write letters to a lot of people in different [countries]—but I interviewed the ones who died [from] Australia and all that. A lot of perfect strangers I had to interview, so I learned that early in life. Sometimes I shrank from it, because I was very young to interview some of the soldiers who came from Gallipoli. That, I think, was pretty hard on somebody young—but maybe it was good training. Interviewing those people was very, very hard for me."

Excerpt from Jack's Interview with Dora in 1993:

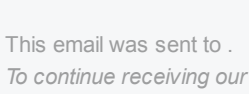
Jack: What do you say to patients who are dying Dora?
Dora: I tell them they are dying so they can heal their lives. Death doesn't bother me.
Jack: Could you say why?
Dora: It's a universal experience. I say that in every lecture. If it applies to the stars, there's nothing living which doesn't die... nothing on earth which doesn't die. Both life and death are part of this whole system of the universe, and one has to accept it. And there's no other way of looking at that. It's scientific. It is truth.
Jack: So, it's not a big issue?
Dora: You can't do anything about it, so accept it.
Jack: So, that's another way of coming at, coming at mortality
Dora: Well, it's a scientific fact, there is nothing, nothing living that doesn't die. If it applies to the stars, what more evidence is there? So it's universal. We could talk about gods but... no scientist will disagree with you.
Jack: There's nothing living that doesn't...
Dora: Of course, I believe in reincarnation. I will say this. I think consciousness survives.
Jack: And, in a sense, consciousness is life, right?
Dora: Yes. Consciousness is part of the human life.
Jack: I mean, there would not be human life without the consciousness?
Dora: No.
Jack: I heard you say one time that it's not necessary for healers to take preventative measures, to surround themselves with white light, or whatever, to protect themselves from negative energies that are coming from the person that they're working with. Did I hear...
Dora: If they are centered, I said, properly centered. And then they go out, that protects them immediately. But, they have to center first. Because that is really, when they are in a relationship with their inner self, and that when they project that energy, then negative energies won't get in. That's why you mustn't get too involved in it. Not personally involved. I'm sorry for a lot of people. Heavens! I see so much misery in life, don't I?! But, I'm not involved in it. The more you get personally involved in it... That is why it's nice to talk and deal with nurses and doctors. They have learned a lot of that.
Jack: So, the last thing is the centering process?
Dora: The centering process is very im— So, you don't react to all your habitual patterns, but first of all, you are quiet within yourself. And it isn't love you need to project to your patients. You need to project peace. Not your personal love.
Jack: So, the centering process brings me in touch with my inner peace?
Dora: That's right. And that's what they forget. Not love. Peace. Because they need peace to figure out if they're dying or not. And that's a love of a different kind. But, it isn't the emotional love that you want. If nurses, out of their own needs, assume that some of the AIDS patients want to be hugged, and AIDS patients do not wish to be hugged. And they are no good as nurses if they do that. To force something which patients don't want, uh, it's certainly brings a negative reaction.
Jack: Because it's an emotional love that they're trying –
Dora: And the patients don't need sympathy! They need strength and peace to fight their own battles. And peace above all. So, I'm not sentimental, am I? **Dora died at 95**



Jack Blackburn, LMP, Master's in Theological Studies, Certified Spiritual Director, specializes in body centered spiritual growth and healing. He has been a Trager® practitioner since 1986. He has been a Trager tutor since 1993, has taught Trager electives classes since 1996, and teaches a variety of classes to care giving professionals. He is a NCBTMB Approved Continuing Education Provider and AMTA National Presenter. He is a Focusing Trainer and teaches Bodywork Focusing classes for professionals. Jack is also a Reiki Master and teaches levels I, II, III and Advanced Reiki for Bodyworkers.

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