

## *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*

March 21, 2016

### NEWS

Drawing on documents of Dr. Murray Bowen in the collection at the National Library of Medicine, Clarence Boyd edited a volume entitled: *Commitment to Principles: The Letters of Dr. Murray Bowen*. New this month to The Murray Bowen Archives website is the [interview of Clarence Boyd](#), by Katie Long, editor of "Family Systems Forum." The interview was first published in "Family Systems Forum" in 2008.

We have learned that it is possible to access some of Murray Bowen's videos at the National Library of Medicine. Click here [for more details](#).

The audiovisual collection at the National Library of Medicine is receiving attention in preparation for restoration, preservation, and digitization. We will keep you posted.



For several years, Oral History Interviews have been collected from people who worked closely with Dr. Bowen. In our last email blast we announced the posting of the first of these interviews - with Dr. Laurie Lassiter. The next interview in the series, Peg Donley, has just been posted. Please check it out! [Click here](#) to access the interview.

### THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the members of the Murray Bowen Archives Project website team - Barbara LeBlanc, Pat Comella, Greg Brown, Joe Brown, and chairperson, Jean Harrison! This group met, along with President Joanne Bowen and Executive Director, Carol Jeunnette, to finalize plans for the summer roll-out of the new website.

Thanks to the people all over the world who have been typing the text of Clarence Boyd's book, *Commitment to Principles*. We will keep you posted on upcoming plans for this book.



Thank you, Anne Curran, Margie Hottel, and Mary Ann Lancaster, for kicking off the first work week for final processing of the *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*. To the left is a colorful picture of the fruits of their labors - many papers from the Menninger years sorted into piles with titles like "MB Correspondence," "Class Notes," and "I Have No Idea Where to Put This!" Please check the "Volunteer" section for details on summer workweeks, and let us know if you can help with this project.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to assist with the processing of the Williamsburg Collection, at the office in Williamsburg, Virginia. During each work session, volunteers will go through boxes of documents and sort them into categories of like items. Some volunteers will scan documents and enter data into Meta-Murray. During each session, there will be a "read-in" time to allow volunteers to do personal research. Summer work sessions usually begin on Monday mornings and finish on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. (Note different days for the August session.) Lodging will be provided for Sunday - Wednesday evenings. Tentative dates are: June 13 - 15, July 11 - 13, and August 6 - 9 (begin at 2:00 on Saturday, finish at noon on Tuesday). Three volunteers are needed for each session. To learn more and sign up, please contact [Carol Jeunnette](#), Executive Director.

### Donate

Financial support for *The Murray Bowen Archives Project* in 2015 was generous. Thank you! The operating budget of \$100,000 for 2016, will support processing of the Williamsburg Collection, ongoing work in the Oral History Project, continued development of the website ([www.murraybowenarchives.org](http://www.murraybowenarchives.org)), and of Meta-Murray--our database, assessment work and planning for the AV materials in the NLM collection, and operational expenses.

We continue to seek major gift of \$20,000 that will allow us to purchase an archival grade scanner. With this fast scanner, the time needed to make documents available online will be reduced significantly. Imagine being able to go online, search a database, and pull up and read a copy of the text of an early presentation of Dr. Bowen's - perhaps even something quoted below in "The Chalkboard."

### The Chalkboard: Quotes from Dr. Murray Bowen



For each email blast from *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*, we include "The Chalkboard," quotes from Dr. Bowen, or in this case, communication to Dr. Bowen, drawn from materials in the Williamsburg Collection. This month's quote is from a note written to Dr. Bowen in 1949, during the time he was at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, KS. Even during that early period - long before the theory emerged - hints of the importance of thinking, objectivity, and a "dispassionate evaluation of reality" show evidence of the theory's underlying principles.

Dear Dr. Bowen,

Two weeks ago tonite you walked into the office and found me crying, in as severe a state of shock and as badly out of control as I've ever been in my life. The help you gave me then not only enabled me to gather up some shreds of self control and act reasonably that night, but it also somehow started a process of re-orientation in my thinking about my job and my relationship to the Foundation. I didn't sleep much that night and I cried an awful lot, but I did some thinking, too, in the direction that you'd started me and took the first step toward an increasing objectivity that has gotten me through these two difficult weeks...

I think it was the complete sincerity of what you said, along with a rare combination of warm friendliness and dispassionate evaluation of reality that helped me so much... I'm grateful.

Your donations are greatly appreciated! Checks, payable to "The Murray Bowen Archives Project" can be sent to our Treasurer, Bill Dwyer, M.D., at 301 Belvoir Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37411. Donations also can be made through PayPal on our website: [www.murraybowenarchives.org](http://www.murraybowenarchives.org).

#### **Board of Directors**

**Joanne Bowen**

*President*

**Pat Comella**

*Vice President*

**Bill Dwyer**

*Treasurer*

**Libby Malone**

*Secretary*

**Priscilla Friesen**

*Director*

**Catherine Rakow**

*Director*

**Andrea Schara**

*Director*

**Judith Ball**

*Director*

**Ed Henley**

*Director*

**Kent Webb**

*Director*

**Carol Jeunnette**

*Executive Director*

[CarolJeunnette@MurrayBowenArchives.org](mailto:CarolJeunnette@MurrayBowenArchives.org)