

Project Update
March, 2014

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Dear Friends,

Shortly before his death, my father, Dr. Murray Bowen, passed to me the responsibility of ensuring the security of his archives in a library. When I asked, “what is to go?”, he swept his arm across the office. Without speaking, he made it very clear. He was giving his legacy to the world. Yet making his legacy - his gift - an accessible reality is a complex and long-term task.

I want to take this opportunity, the opening of 2014, to thank the Board of Leaders for Tomorrow, Volunteers, and Donors for contributing and securing the future of Murray Bowen’s legacy. With your help, the process of giving Bowen Theory to the world is underway.

The repository for Dr. Bowen’s Archives is the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The mission of *The Murray Bowen Archives Project of Leaders for Tomorrow* is to assist NLM as it processes and makes the collection public. This is achieved through: 1) promoting, supporting, and contributing to the processing and preservation of Bowen’s archives; 2) facilitating additions to the Archives; and 3) fostering and

disseminating scholarship using the Archives. This *Project Update* offers a brief history of *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*, descriptions of specific work that facilitates the mission, and plans for the future - all evidence of staying on course.

The work of the Project depends on obtaining necessary resources - both financial and practical. I myself, and the Board of LFT are grateful to all who have made the work, thus far, possible. Your continuing support is of critical importance to achieving the Project’s mission.

Sincerely,
Joanne Bowen
President and Executive Director, Leaders for Tomorrow



THE MURRAY BOWEN ARCHIVES PROJECT: A SHORT HISTORY

The Beginnings: A Gift to the World

Christmas, 1988: Murray Bowen gave his theory as a gift to the world. The history of *The Murray Bowen Archives Project* is the story of making that gift a reality.

The story began in 1984, when the National Library of Medicine (NLM) took possession of early video recordings of Bowen's interviews with clinical families. Shortly before his death in 1990, it was agreed that NLM would serve as the repository for all of Dr. Bowen's work - his archives. The responsibility for ensuring this would happen was given to Dr. Bowen's daughter, Joanne. The scope of this gift is immense, yet with the help of donors and volunteers, it is happening.

1990's

In the years after Dr. Bowen's death, the Georgetown Family Center (now the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family) took the lead in preserving audio-visual records housed there. The work of staff members and volunteers to assess, preserve, and catalog 774 tapes revealed the magnitude of the financial commitment needed to preserve this unique component of Bowen's intellectual legacy. Without external funding, their loss would be inevitable. In order to ensure their preservation, the Bowen Center donated most of the tapes to NLM.

Bowen's written records from the research project at the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) also were curated during these years. In 1993, LeRoy Bowen entrusted work on these documents to the Bowen Center. Eventually, they were moved to NLM for the work to be completed. During the 1990's, Catherine Rakow began her review and line-item inventory of these records - a process that took 15 years to complete. The line-item

review allowed the creation of a catalog that will serve as a resource to researchers.

2000 - 2010

In 2001, Bowen's collection was formally deeded to NLM by the L. Murray Bowen Family Credit Trust. A multiyear task of separating professional records from family records was begun, led by LeRoy Bowen assisted by Lee Kelley. Professional records were moved into acid-free folders and placed in acid-free boxes. Family papers were set aside for future processing.



In 2002, LeRoy Bowen began transferring the professional collection, (dating from 1959 to 1990), to NLM, where archivists listed the contents of each box (creating a short finding aid). The professional collection was opened for a short time to researchers. In September, 2006, Joanne Bowen realized the confidential nature of some of the clinical material and NLM curators closed the collection. Subsequently, material was reviewed in light of necessary restrictions. The review has been completed and the collection will be available to

researchers in the near future.

In 2008, a seminal year, a small group of dedicated, talented, hardworking individuals came together to form *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*. Andrea Schara, founder and president of Leaders for Tomorrow, offered her not-for-profit organization as a home. Joanne Bowen became LFT's President and Executive Director. *The Murray Bowen Archives Project* became LFT's sole focus.

By 2011, LeRoy Bowen had transferred virtually the entire professional collection to NLM.

2011- 2012

In 2011, the ceiling in Murray Bowen's home office fell, the result of a pin-hole leak in a water pipe. Fortunately, no critical records were lost. LeRoy Bowen made the decision to move to a retirement community.

Throughout their lifetime together, and following his death in 1990, LeRoy's support was steadfast. She was a founding member of *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*, and with her significant donation a year before her death in October, 2011, she remains LFT's largest donor. LFT and the world are indebted to her dedication.



While cleaning out the family home after LeRoy had moved, the Bowen siblings and in-

laws made a discovery that - in a matter of minutes - re-oriented and significantly expanded *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*. Tucked into the eaves of the attic, they discovered a treasure trove - boxes and boxes of paper records dating from the 1930's to the 1950's. (The mystery of what had happened to records from that period was solved!)

Later in the year, the Treasure Trove, along with the remaining contents of Dr. Bowen's home office (books, family correspondence, family history) were moved to Williamsburg for processing. Together, they have become known as "the Williamsburg Collection." In an instant, this discovery shifted LFT's primary focus from the collection already at NLM to the newly found documents. Processing of the Williamsburg collection, (as large or larger than the collection already donated to NLM), requires the important step of segregating letters and completing privacy reviews prior to donation. Thus, since 2011, when the papers were moved to Williamsburg, LFT's primary goal has shifted to preparing this collection for donation to NLM.

The new home of the Williamsburg Collection is a climate-controlled storage unit large enough for multiple shelves of boxes as well as a work space.

Here, materials are organized in a way that enables LFT volunteers to begin identifying important letters and prepare them for donation, without the risk of losing their provenance.



In September, 2012, the first Williamsburg "Work-In" was held, in conjunction with the LFT annual board meeting. During a second Work-In in October, Catherine Rakow led a group of dedicated volunteers to prepare the collection for donation. Joanne Bowen and Judy Bowen

segregated personal letters. Volunteers learned and applied archival standards as they removed letters



from their original envelopes, removed staples, replaced metal paper clips with plastic ones, and recorded essential metadata, such as the date letters were written, authors, recipients (individual or group) and brief notes on significant topics.

Under the guidance of Priscilla Friesen, a collection of photographs destined for NLM also received attention. LFT volunteers began the task of curating, scanning, cataloging and producing digital copies.

In order to disseminate information about *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*, work on a website for LFT was begun in 2011. Despite challenges presented by the resignation of the website designer (due to health reasons), the site was launched early in 2012. An important task for 2014 is the redevelopment of the website.

2013: A YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

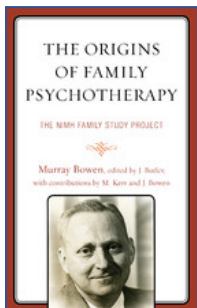
Review of NLM Collections As 2013 neared its end, the review of the paper collections currently held at NLM was completed. We are pleased to announce that the collection will be available to researchers in the near future. Archival work needed to open the collection to the public will occur when all paper records have been donated.

Processing Photographs for Donation LFT entered into a one-year lease for office space at the Bowen Center, where the photographic collection work is being done. The space provides increased accessibility and greater security for the collection as LFT volunteers carry out the curating process.

Processing the Williamsburg Collection With the transfer of the Treasure Trove to Williamsburg, the extent of the work involved in processing the Collection became clearer. Anne Curran joined Catherine Rakow in leading an expanded corps of volunteers. We continued to refine the metadata systems used to record critical information, and to teach archival standards. Four Work-Ins were held.

The Oral History Project It has been clear from the beginning that those who knew Bowen had much to contribute about the development and application of Bowen theory. Catherine Rakow and Andrea Schara began the Oral History Project with interviews of people present during the early years of research. In 2013, LFT finalized a manual for the collection of histories, and led by Andrea Schara, a cadre of LFT volunteers has interviewed about forty-five individuals to whom Bowen Theory has made important contributions to their lives. These interviews add to the historical record and they truly fit with LFT's goal of giving Bowen theory to the world.

The Origins of Family Psychotherapy, Jack Butler, ed. One of the goals of LFT, to foster and disseminate scholarship based on the *Murray Bowen Archives*, led to underwriting the publication costs of Dr. Jack Butler's edited volume, *The Origins of Family Psychotherapy*. Publication of this book is a nodal event, opening to all many of the original papers from the NIMH project. Dr. Butler has graciously donated all royalties from the volume to *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*.



In Memoriam...

Monika Baege

1959 - 2013

Dr. Monika Baege, Secretary and member of the Board of Directors of Leaders for Tomorrow, died last October. As described by Board



President, Joanne Bowen, Monika was "a quiet powerhouse of calm, wit, and wisdom." A long-term student of Bowen Theory, Monika was committed to making Dr. Bowen's archives at the NLM accessible to all. Perhaps her most important contribution to the Board, wrote President Joanne Bowen, "was to help steer our young, volunteer organization to think through how to emerge into a larger, more robust organization that could support the archives for years to come."

Dr. Baege earned her Master of Arts in 1993 in community counseling, and her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies in 2005. She practiced as a licensed counselor in Burlington, VT and served as a board member and faculty chair for the Vermont Center for Family Studies. Something few people connected to LFT may know is that Monika also was an accomplished musician, often accompanying "Sara," her Celtic harp, with her beautiful folk voice.

Leaders for Tomorrow and *The Murray Bowen Archives Project* truly have benefitted from Monika's gifts and commitment. Monika - you are missed.

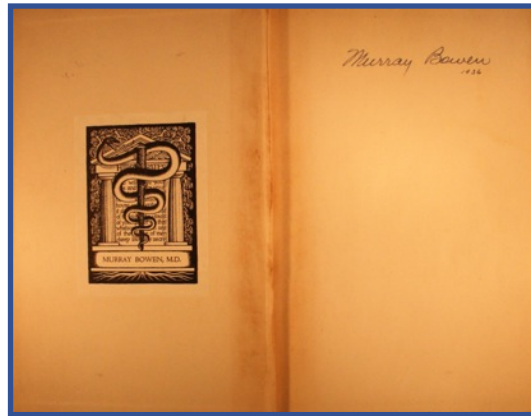
LOOKING AHEAD

We are excited about the continuing work of *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*. In 2014, there are three primary foci: 1) continued preparation of the Williamsburg Collection for donation to NLM; 2) continued work on the Oral History Project, with the transcription of interviews given by Bowen's students and colleagues; and 3) strengthening of the infrastructure necessary to successfully continue to carry out the mission of LFT.

The Williamsburg Collection

Our goal over the next few years is to donate Bowen's collection of family correspondence and photographs to NLM. Many were stored in boxes in the home attic, others in files in his office. They include his copies of personal letters, manuscripts, and family histories. As well, this collection contains significant documentation of Dr. Bowen's life experiences preceding his entry into the field of psychiatry, including Army records with examples of research on early discharges during war time, and class notes from the University of Tennessee. Processing the collection for transfer to NLM will proceed in stages, with group letters, manuscripts and family histories going first. This step requires careful preparation using NLM archival standards, scanning, digitizing and indexing of the letters. We anticipate this project will take three years, with the expenses spread out over that period of time. Four Work-In Sessions are planned for this year.

This year, our goal is to complete the segregation and preparation of letters, and begin scanning. We estimate expenses in 2014 for processing the Williamsburg Collection to be \$47,000. This covers scanning, archival supplies, storage and work space rental, and housing for volunteer workers. Costs in 2015 and 2016 are expected to be \$84,000, reflective of increases in the volume of materials scanned. Overall, we anticipate it will cost \$215,000 to process the Williamsburg Collection.



Oral History Project:

This year, LFT is initiating a project to transcribe interviews given by forty-five individuals. A former William and Mary graduate student will begin using ELAN (linguistic annotator software) to create digital transcriptions that will permit editing and searching of video and audio data. From these files, LFT will produce written transcripts and annotated digital files that can be used for research and educational purposes. Segments will be highlighted on our website, and also used by those interviewed in their own research and publication. The estimated cost for this project is \$9,000 - \$12,000.

Critical Infrastructure-LFT's Website: Plans for an upgraded and expanded website

are under way. In light of the professional evaluation completed in the fall of 2013, we will request proposals to implement recommendations. The first step involves expansion of text and addition of appropriate visual materials, including descriptions of the importance and breadth of Bowen's archives and expanded accounts of LFT's efforts to assist NLM in the archival process. The second step involves an architectural upgrade to, among other things, support audiovisual materials (such as interviews from the Oral History Project). The website will become a vibrant tool to communicate to our volunteers and others who are interested in the project. Together, these improvements will better define and disseminate the mission, goals, and aspirations of *The Murray Bowen Archives Project*. The estimated cost for 2014 website work is \$5,000 - \$10,000.

www.murraybowenarchives.org

Project Updates:

The mission of giving Bowen theory to the world is complex, ongoing, and necessarily will move in phases. LFT commits to keeping volunteers, donors, and friends informed through biannual Project Updates.

2013 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Beginning Balance:	\$84,593.55
Income:	\$27,793.21
Expenses:	\$29,005.38
Ending Balance:	\$83,381.38

A more detailed financial accounting will be published mid-year, 2014.

2014 ANTICIPATED EXPENSES

Williamsburg Collection	
Processing:	\$47,000
Oral History:	\$9,000 - \$12,000
Infrastructure/Website:	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Administrative Costs:	\$5,000
Total:	\$66,000 - \$74,000

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Since 2008, when The Murray Bowen Archives Project came into being as a way to secure Murray Bowen's archives for the future, many volunteers and Board members have worked tirelessly. Over the past six years, LFT has matured from a young fledgling organization with high hopes and lofty goals into an organization poised to achieve our core mission.

Our current foci are foundational, and they provide a base for future work. The website will soon allow access to our efforts to those outside the Bowen field. The interviews taken as part of the Oral History Project will soon be transcribed and searchable. The professional records at NLM will soon be available to researchers, and the foundation for preparing the family papers for donation will soon be established.

As we enter 2014, I am pleased to announce that Libby Malone has come on board as the secretary for LFT. Many thanks to Ann Jones, Monika Baerge's predecessor, for assisting Libby to make a smooth transition into her new position.

We appreciate the generous support - financial and volunteer - that has been given to Leaders for Tomorrow to bring us to this point. We hope you will again consider giving generously to help us support this year's work on the Williamsburg Collection, the Oral History Project and the website.

*Sincerely,
Joanne Bowen
President and Executive Director of Leaders for Tomorrow*

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If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ann Jones, ajones@murraybowenarchives.org.

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The Murray Bowen Archives Project/Leaders for Tomorrow

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