

## **JAY SHERRY**

### **“Jung’s Philosophy of Education”**

Carl Jung had an important, albeit unrecognized, influence on progressive education. Margaret Naumberg, founder of the Walden School, analyzed with Beatrice Hinkle, an early follower of Jung’s, and incorporated his ideas of child development and creative fantasy into her curriculum. In the 1920’s Jung was invited to speak at a series of education conferences organized by Beatrice Ensor, founder of the New Educational Fellowship (U.K.). Adapting the traditional German concept of *Bildung* (“cultivation”) to modern times he advocated schools that promoted emotional maturity as well as intellectual aptitude.

One of Jung’s main concerns was what he called “the self-education of the educator.” He felt that the most important influence a teacher had was based on her personality rather than the specific content that she taught. Jung’s main contribution to practical psychology has been his theory of psychology types. Besides his distinction between “extraversion” and “introversion” he identified four functions (thinking, feeling, sensation, and intuition), one of which becomes dominant as a person grows up. If the goal is well-rounded individuals then each of the other functions needs to be recognized and developed. Interesting connections can be made between this schema and Howard Gardner’s theory of “multiple intelligences.”

Jungian psychology can also play a role in planning curricula for English and History courses. His concept of the shadow (“the Other”) is an important tool in helping students understand the role of scapegoating. His life-long concern for the role of symbol and myth can deepen their appreciation for the non-rational factors in human experience. By working artistically with them a teacher can foster imaginative activity that can grip a student more deeply than cognitive activities alone.

*Jay Sherry is a veteran NYC high school social studies teacher. He recently received his Ph.D. from the Free University Berlin for his dissertation “Carl Gustav Jung, Avant-garde Conservative.” He has lectured on Jung at various Jungian venues as well as at the German Studies Association Convention. This is his first IFPE conference.*