***UNBELIEVABLE!***

***FOUND! A “NEW” EARLY RECOLLECTION OF ALFRED ADLER!***

*Read on for this groundbreaking “story”!*

***“What’s the Story?”…***

**… is a book club with a twist** in which we assess a person’s personality or “Life Style” as if it were a literary text. By “stringing together” a person’s Early Recollections (ERs) or perceived important memories into a kind of short story, we then apply literary methods, such as those endorsed by The Great Books Foundation, to interpret it.

Check us out! We’re free!

[**https://www.whatsthestory.online/**](https://www.whatsthestory.online/)

*(we’re also an affiliate of the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology [NASAP])*

We meet four times a year over zoom: February, May, August, and November (hybrid zoom and in-person meetings will return in the future).

**CONTINUE READING FOR THE SUMMARY OF OUR LAST MEETING (MAY 14, 2023), IN WHICH WE REVEALED ALFRED ADLER’S “NEW” ER!**

In the past we’ve interpreted the Early Recollections of Alfred Adler (twice!), Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Vladimir Putin, U.S. Presidents, Holocaust survivors, twins, couples, and even “average Joes and Janes.” We’ve also conducted live Life Style interviews to demonstrate how to collect material for … *What’s the Story?* For more information, contact Les White at [leswhitechicago@gmail.com](mailto:leswhitechicago@gmail.com)

**SUMMARY OF OUR MAY 14, 2023 MEETING:**

Thank you, all, who zoomed in on Mother’s Day!

Originally, we had planned to interpret and compare the ERs of four generations of women from the same family: a great-grandmother, grandmother, mother, and daughter! But prospective participants, as well as some Mothers, raised the issue of the date: is there anyone on this earth who does not celebrate Mother’s Day with family? So, we not so much cancelled our planned Mother’s Day Extravaganza (as our previous leaflet informed; the meeting will be rescheduled) as held a shorter zoom-in to say “hi” and discuss what we do.

And what do we do? *What’s the Story?* encourages the collection and interpretation of Life Style material, which is largely composed of ERs and one’s Family Constellation. Simply:

If ERs reflect – in story or narrative form – one’s long-held goals and perceptions regarding life/world, self, and others, one’s Family Constellation – or descriptions of self, siblings, and parents – reflects one’s influences regarding values and relating to others. (In *What’s the Story?*, we consider one’s Family Constellation as a kind of “Cast of Characters” as, keeping with our literary “perspective,” those described often appear in that person’s ERs.)

We also on May 14th considered how Adlerians such as Alfred himself and other seminal figures in the Adlerian movement collected and interpreted Life Style material (e.g., Rudolf Dreikurs, Jane Griffith and Robert Powers, Harold Mosak and Bernie Shulman, and Frank Walton with his “Most Memorable Observation”). We discussed how people are hesitant to collect such material because they fear it takes too long to accurately write down or is too difficult to interpret or that they will never be able to interpret it as well as “experts” they have seen at conferences. *What’s the Story?* encourages group interpretation because this exposes us to different perspectives, which hones our interpretive and assessment skills (we stress that opinions must be supported by evidence in the “text” – that is, in our “readings” composed of the Life Style material).

To encourage others to become involved and contribute we decided that we will post a simple Life Style questionnaire in which the responses can be typed or input verbally using a voice-to-print transcription service (the free version of zoom with its “Record” and “Show Captions/View Full Transcript” keys will suffice). These texts will then provide the content for some of our future meetings.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEWS OF THAT INTERVIEW AND HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR “STORIES.”

**WHAT YOU’VE BEEN WAITING FOR – ALFRED ADLER’S “NEW” ER!**

At the meeting we also discussed the impact that Generative Pre-trained Transformer, popularly known as GPT – Artificial Intelligence – will have on psychotherapy and Life Style interpretation. GPT has been all over the news lately: politicians and schools want to regulate it or ban it (how will terrorists or rogue states or students use it?! How will it manipulate us, take our jobs?! Get ready for the second coming of *A Space Odyssey*’s HAL and the end of human civilization!!).

Well, readers, GPT has been unleashed and it’s here to stay! After we input the ERs that Adler had related to his biographer in the 1930s, GPT, even in its current, simplistic and still-being-developed form, generated an additional ER that Adler could have related. Some may even consider it Adler’s most definitive ER (!) because it reflected or summarized in a simple, easy-to-understand and elegant narrative his behavioral patterns and goals. We were floored! (Yes, we know it was not a real ER, but …!) EMAIL US FOR A COPY OF THIS ER! (We have been “testing” the interpretive potential of those Artificial Intelligence sites that have been most in the news – ChatGPT and GPT-4 – experimenting with which questions generate the best or most valid responses.)

**WATCH THIS SPACE OF NEWS OF *WHAT’S THE STORY?***

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