*In memory of or to the lives of:*

Everett, my father,

 who gave me theater, music, wanderlust, and life;

Naomi, my mother,

 who gave me poetry, religion, fellow-feeling, and life;

Richard R. Baker III, my padre,

 who used philosophy and theology to open me to the

 immensity of life;

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 who pointed me in the direction of life;

Vinnie O’Connell, Sam Keen, and Tom Hanna, my mentors in the quest, who challenged me to find my own path to life;

Joy, my wife and staunch mate (now deceased),

who traveled with me along her own path, sharing all of the

ups and downs, and who knew my soul as did no other;

Gina, Mark, Kelly, Paul, and Ivan, my children, who have each marked my life in a unique way that I will forever treasure within me;

. . . and to Fernanda Maria del Carmen Gonzales Serrano, my companion in deep and unending friendship; and to her son Pablo and daughter Barbara, who not only welcome me into their home, but into their lives as well – as I do them into mine,

 (natives of Mexico with a home in Mexico City);

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Stapleton (former wife and present friend), Patricia Owens Bailey Lemesh, and John Fremont Bailey III – the four of us linked by a caring which, though stretched by the intervening years and miles, was never torn; the Very Rev. Fred G. Yerkes; Clifford L. Stanley, theologian, and A. T. Mollegen (“Molle”), apologist; Holt H. Graham, my mentor designate, and Charles P. 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Roy Woods, RCAF, Ret., who built the stage in the old recreation hall at Camp Weed (on St. George Sound, near Carrabelle, FL); Hans Küng, for the softly spoken, yet tightly reasoned and rousingly revolutionary address given at St. Leo’s College in central Florida (a man of classically-trained intellect, who combines uncompromising conviction with genuine humility and an unwavering zeal for the truth, and whose work sets the highest standard for all theological endeavor); the Revs. Paul Ritch, Neil Gray, Lex Mathews, Roy Mercer, St. Julian Lachicotte, and Charles McNutt (later a bishop); the Rt. Rev. John Hines, then Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (whose keynote-speech at Diocesan Convention in Pensacola led to our meeting each other in person then, and again years later in Cashiers, NC) **From the unprecedented cultural upheaval and radical social unrest which then had no name (or too many) but that is now known collectively as “the Sixties” (1968-1974): First, working as Community School Director at M. Agnes Jones school, just down Fair Street from the Atlanta University Center (Clark, Spelman, Morehouse, and Morris Brown) . . .** Congressman John Lewis and his wife Lillian(my wife, a friend of Lillian’s, was paired in the procession with Julian Bond at John and Lillian’s wedding at Ebenezer Baptist Church conducted by Daddy King, December 21, 1968); John C. Calhoun; Johnnie Cox; César Chávez (United Farm Workers Organizing Committee); Andrew Young (we each gave a brief address to the international volunteers gathered in the stands for the opening of the Atlanta Stadium in preparation for the 1996 Olympics); the late Maynard Jackson; compassionate and stalwart Felker W. Ward, Jr., and Mary, his wife of irrepressible spirit; the Rev. Warren Scott, and his ever-beneficent wife Edith, then of Atlanta University Center’s Canterbury Center (now named the Absalom Jones Student Center); Anna Grant and Vincent Harding; Xernona (“Big”) Clayton; (the EOA Center on Lawton Street, the EIP Project of Atlanta Public Schools, CNAC area block meetings, Harris Homes, Paschal’s Restaurant,The Hungry Club at the Butler Street “Y” (now Jesse Hill Street), SWAP, Literacy Action, Grant Park, Cabbagetown, Vine City, the Model Cities program, and on and on); **. . . and Second, working at the Human Development Institute in Atlanta (1970-1974):** Jerome I. Berlin, PhD.; Bob Donnelly (a true priest in every way), Gary Bryson of Bell & Howell, Robbie Richter, Kathy Isenberg, Don Cooper, Phil Arnold, Steve

Friedlander (conducting training for corporate clients, while also researching and developing programmed materials in interpersonal psychology – a few of which were filmed and aired on CBS Television’s *The 20th Century*, hosted by Walter Cronkite – and also filming prominent psychotherapists (Eric Berne, Fritz Perls, Bill Shutz, and Harold Greenwald) in action before the American Psychological Association convention in San Francisco). **From five years crammed with travel while conducting extensive training, consulting and speaking to organizations, corporations, and government agencies across the country, and in Canada and Europe, while simultaneously working to obtain a doctorate in psychology (1975-1980):** Ace and Judy Hagabak, both then with the Southern Institute for Human Resources; Gen. George S. Brown, Commander of the USAF Systems Command (who immediately thereafter became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) – and the special training sessions first at Patrick AFB in FL, then Andrews AFB in DC, and finally at the Installation Commanders Conference in Albuquerque; *to Wayne Ducheneaux, Chairman, and to the whole tribal council of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe* in Eagle Butte, SD; Literacy Action; Neil Shorthouse; Preston and Marian Stevens; the Rev. Robert H. Johnson (later, Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina); Nell Bennett and Grandma Crider; Mary Kahaian, “the lady with the dress,” and Lance, “the boy with the shells”; the Very Rev. Urban T. Holmes (former dean of the School of Theology at Sewanee, TN), Lueta Bailey (who asked me to “drop by late,” after a workshop I was giving, to join them for dessert at a private dinner in her home one night, and there introduced me to the friend she’d been traveling the country with on a mission of high purpose: *Olivia de Havilland* (leaving me, to Lueta’s utter amusement and shameless delight, totally thunderstruck and speechless); Carol Jean Kennedy and Pamela Sanford (both, in their respective ways, so courageous) of Kanuga Conference Center days gone by; Reid Isaac and Bob Gilday (both then of Seabury Press); gracious Jane Linville; Roy P. Fairfield, Ph.D., innovative educator, and Charles Martin, Ph.D., of Howard University and Union Graduate School; the Very Rev. Robert Oliver, Dean of the American Cathedral in Paris – to keynote, in the cold and snowy spring of 1979, the conference for the American Cathedrals in Europe (encountering there Olivia de Haviland a second time – and, having long since recovered my voice, to speak to her once more – *it was my first trip abroad!*); the Rt. Rev. Hamilton West and his supremely tactful secretary of so many years, Margaret Patton) – then both of the Diocese of Florida; the Rt. Revs. Frank Cerveny (Florida) and Bennett Sims (Atlanta); Eugenia Abernathy and Rogers Matthews, then both at Holy Innocents; the former Rev. Reynell M. Parkins and his widow Jean; Melinda Clark, Susan and

Hugh Bradford, Rebecca Rice, Bob Shaw (great jazz guitarist), Aimee Ariel,

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Wayne Crosby, attorney; and Jim Cushman, founder and developer of Colony Square. **And, lastly,** **working as a writer, professional actor, teacher, and public speaker (1990-2000):**Ruthanna Schofield; Sondra Nelson and Micki Hibbs of Neighborhood Playhouse in Decatur; Cary Jackson, Elizabeth Pond, and Anthony Rodriguez; Chris Coleman, director (formerly of Actor’s Express in Atlanta and now of Portland Center Stage); Therra Gwynn, of Theatrical Outfit and of other theaters; Carol Mitchell Leon, actress and director; Richard Garner, Producing Artistic Director, and Sabin Epstein and Karen Robinson (guest directors) of the Georgia Shakespeare Festival (where I was delighted to perform in *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *School for Scandal*, and *Macbeth*); Nancy Keystone, for her untiring excellence and attention to detail in directing Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House* at Actor’s Express, and for the superior performances given there by both Peter Ganim and Jennifer Deer; John Stevens, producing artistic director, and resident leprechaun, of Theatre Gael (for Sean O’Casey’s *Juno and the Paycock);*Lisa and Jeff Adler of Horizon Theatre – and the actors Gordon Danniels, Tony Vaughn, Gary Yates, Isma’il ibn Conner, and Eugene Russell IV of *Hambone* there; Robert Schultz and Pat Miller of the many shows at Theatre Emory – and, with the renowned playwrights in residence, playing in Arthur Kopit’s *Discovery of America* and David Krane’s *Beautiful Dreamer* (and working with Sebastian Berry, the Irish playwright, in his *Boss Grady’s Boys*), and, especially, working in several of those with Thomas Byrd (our prior connection going way back to the days at Literacy Action), and Angela Porter, for her poignant portrayal of the petulant Natasha in Chekhov’s *Three Sisters* there; Allen O’Reilly, John Ammerman, Tim McDonough, Jan Akers, and John Briggs – all actors, directors, long-time friends, and fellow-workers in several theatrical productions together; Stuart Beaman and Dale Grogan, of the Gainesville Theatre Alliance; Carles Asenjo, Luis Hernandez, and Caroline Masclet of *La Vida Es Sueño* at Aurora Theatre; Dale Reeves, Susan Queen, Mary Helena Rocks (formerly); Rená Winters, from the days at River Heights; and Nancy Armstrong, Elani Papadakis, Pat Gooding, Tom Smith, and the Rev. 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Each person in these lengthy dedications has added something unique and memorable to my life, and thus indirectly helped in bringing out a book which – literally and without exaggeration – has been a lifetime in the making.

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To anyone anywhere I have ever wronged, who may or may not be listed here, I ask your forgiveness; and to any, and all, who have ever wronged me, though they may not come upon this until much later: please know in your heart that I forgave you in mine long ago.

Finally *. . .* I lift up this work to dedicate it to all those struggling each day to keep their dreams alive. May you find in it the words of a brother joining alongside you in that same struggle, who bids you not to give in but to take heart . . . *and to keep pressing on –* even when everything may seem to have turned to ashes – until you see your dreams standing before you, fully upright in the world!

*--*G.R.

February 1, 2007

Atlanta, Georgia