

Dear Friends,

T.S. Eliot suggested that April is the cruelest month and judging from this one, he may be right. We have lost so many friends that have been important to us and to psychoanalysis. And now Stan Greenspan has passed away at a relatively young age.

We have all had our connections to Stan, whether we knew it or not, because his presence and his thought permeated our field. My connection began when we overlapped in classes at the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute. Stan was anything but a sharp dresser and in those days used to walk around with his shoes untied. The casual appearance, however, covered a razor sharp intellect, as his accomplishments demonstrate.

The breadth and scope of his work was recognized when he was honored with a Sigourney. He was perhaps not feeling well already and his daughter accepted the prize for him. I was pleased to be at the award ceremony to honor him but a part that was particularly meaningful for me was that his daughter was the grown up little girl that Stan and his wife had brought to our house for a party when she was in a bassinette. Professional connections mean a lot but those personal connections only become more meaningful as time goes by. They remind of us our mortality but they connect us to our future.

His contributions to understanding and working with children are virtually legendary. Nonetheless, the contribution that I believe is most creative and will continue to give to us over time is the Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual. Dynamic thinking had been virtually driven out of psychiatry, psychology, and social work “and is still threatened” but what we have now to counter that trend is a comprehensive, codified, and intelligent model of thinking about patients: a model that stands aside from and above the Chinese menu approach of the DSM. Everyone knew it needed to be done but Stan was the one who did it. He had help, wonderful help, but it wouldn't have happened without him.

We will miss him.

Jon Meyer