

Dear IAPSP members,

It is with deep sorrow that we need to inform you of the passing away of our very dear Paul H. Ornstein. He died last Thursday at his Brookline home, surrounded by his family.

There will be a funeral service this Sunday January 22, at 1 PM at Beth El Temple Center, 2 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA. Following a brief burial service at Beit Olam East, 42 Concord Road, Wayland, the family will be receiving visitors at 50-60 Longwood Ave, Apt 508/509 in Brookline until till 8 PM.

On Monday January 23rd the family will be receiving visitors from 6-8PM at 50-60 Longwood Apt 508/509 On Tuesday January 24th the family will be receiving visitors at 53 Dartmouth Street, Belmont from 6-8 PM.

For many years Paul has been a beloved key figure in IAPSP and in the larger psychoanalytic community. Last October, in Boston, we have payed Anna and Paul a special tribute in our annual conference. I would like to share some excerpts of the things I have said there.

In my mind, as it is probably in the minds of many, Paul was a true Kohutian, not only in his in-depth knowledge of what Kohut had taught, in his loyalty to it, and his therapeutic practice, but in his very being – his empathic immersion in the inner lives of others, his belief in, and deep acceptance of, anything human.

There's an anecdote I'd like to share with you. In the winter of 1997, I was staying with Anna and Paul at their home when Arnold Goldberg came to Cincinnati to promote his new book about perversions. At that time there was quite a buzz in the US around the "uncovering" of Madelaine Albright's Judaism. We were having dinner, and Anna remarked about how she couldn't quite understand why anyone would hide their Judaism. She mentioned the arguments she had had with Kohut over the subject. Paul intervened and said something like: But Anna, you need to understand. For Heinz, Judaism had no significance, and with the Anschluss it became a burden because of which his world turned upside down. He was displaced from his beloved environment and culture due to something he felt no affinity with. He had to start afresh here, find his place, so he wanted a clean slate and did not wish this baggage to hamper his quest of becoming an American. So he renounced his Judaism. Can't you understand that? Upon hearing this, Arnold Goldberg laughed and said, " I have always told Heinz, you know, we all like you, but Paul LOVES you".

But I believe it was neither love alone nor mere archaic idealization. Although some colleagues had disparagingly called the Ornsteins "loyalists", I would say that they are indeed Kohut's loyal disciples, not just his blindly admiring followers. I would rather regard their stance as one insisting on respect for the origin, advocating the importance of a continuity, where the contemporary derives its strength not only from its own creativity and innovativeness, but also from the great heritage of the past, from which it draws and on whi