

Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep sadness that I write to inform you of the passing of Dr. Richard Gottlieb. He was an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Mount Sinai and a Training and Supervising Analyst at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute.

Dr. Gottlieb's rise in psychoanalysis was exceptional for its scope and originality. After completing his training at NYPI, he became a leader in the psychoanalytic community. He helped found the Berkshire Psychoanalytic Institute, where he was also a Supervising and Training Analyst, and its first Education Committee Chair. He also held several editorial positions and served as Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He was the recipient of NYPI's Heinz Hartmann Award (1994), the American Psychoanalytic Association's Edith Sabshin Teaching Award (2003), and the JAPA Prize for best paper (2003).

In addition, Dr. Gottlieb lectured widely on psychoanalytic subjects at universities such as Yale, Dartmouth, and Cornell as well as internationally. He gave numerous presentations to our faculty at Mount Sinai, including a classic entitled, "Maurice Sendak's Trilog: Disappointment, Fury and Transformation through Art," later published in the Psychoanalytic Study of the Child.

His scholarly and clinical interests tended to cluster in a dark corner of psychoanalytic thought, focusing on such areas as cannibalistic fantasy and ideas of bodily re-assembly, vampires and vampirism, and spitefully motivated refusal of therapeutic help. JAPA published his hypothesis concerning the therapeutic action of SSRI medications (2002), an interest he followed up with an important editorial essay in JAPA, "Mind, madness and medication: situating psychoanalysis" (2006). He organized and chaired international panels on using medication in psychoanalysis. He also was interviewed on NPR about Maurice Sendak's, "Where the Wild Things Are."

On a personal note, I want to say what a wonderful teacher Richard was for me and so many other students of psychoanalysis. He was integrally involved with teaching, supervising, leading process groups, and other academic activities. He loved working with residents and junior faculty and had much clinical experience and wisdom to impart.

Among many precious moments, I'll remember our regular lunches together at a local deli. Richard was marathon fit. But on those occasions, we indulged in the hot pastrami sandwiches, bettered only by delicious talk. In our last conversation, he spoke with fatherly pride about his two, highly accomplished sons. He talked about his beloved Jo and how they were looking forward to spending more time at their Connecticut farm over the summer. He generously invited me and my son to join.

Later over coffee and rugelach, he described helping birth a baby lamb. It was a breech, so he pulled it out by the hind legs. A bit dazed, it stumbled toward the light. Momentarily, it looked back with what Richard took to be some gratitude. I recall in the

telling that he offered a quart of homemade, delectable lamb stew as if to emphasize that's how life is--a glorious cycle that ends in beginning in some other way again. He appreciated the irony--even small virtue--in our becoming worm food for the grass of grazing sheep.

Dr. Charles Brenner, an esteemed teacher of ours, used to remark on his admiration for Dr. Gottlieb and his work. He once commented that Dr. Gottlieb wrote "spectacularly about the wild, the weird, and the wonderful." And who could possibly forget, even in our own dotage, how he brought the characters that inhabited Freud's world--Little Hans, Wolfie, and those twisted sisters--to life.

Dr. Gottlieb will be remembered as a valuable contributor to the teaching, supervision, scholarship, and other academic activities of our Psychiatry Department at Mount Sinai--and well beyond. He was a consummate psychodynamic psychiatrist, an original psychoanalytic scholar, and dear friend. May his wisdom endure and continue to nourish all of us.

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Ahron Friedberg, MD