

Post script from Jane Hall

I was thrilled by the celebration of Arnold Richards' Collected Papers. But I had a scare that I want to share: As I was getting out of the cab on the way to Hatch auditorium my cell phone buzzed. I rarely use it and had trouble hearing someone tell me that Arnie was on the way to the hospital! OMG. A missing guest of honor??? A wedding without the rabbi? What to do!! I decided that the show would go on – and was confident that the audience along with Joann, Art, and Frank would make it all worthwhile. Then, as we sat in the auditorium, just me, Art and Lourdes, and Joann – Art got a message that Arnie would come after all. And he did! A minor blood pressure drop had corrected and he convinced the EM doctor that he was OK and that he would be right next door to the Mt. Sinai ER. Whew!!!!

I thank the audience for participating with questions and comments. Susan Kavalier-Adler, Helen Gediman, Jennifer Harper, Harvey Kaplan and others stand out in my mind. The panel was generous in dialoging and Arnie was at his best speaking extemporaneously.

I think, and hope that the usual format of presenting a paper with a discussant is on the way out and will be replaced by more back and forth discussions that include all who attend. My dream is round tables with wine that would be filmed and shared on the internet.

I learned that “people just do not go to meetings anymore” and I wonder if we can't remedy that situation. Participation, think-tanks, inclusivity must replace the lecture mode we have been used to.

Frank, pointed to the absurdity of the analyst in the chair and the analysand on the couch. And we all laughed. Sure, the situation is emblematic of our work – but if you really stand back it's actually bizarre. The more we learn about the brain and the need for visual connection that begins in the

first 4 hours of life – the more we may want to wonder about this arrangement. Actually, facing each other still allows us to look away when we choose to.

In sum, I had a lovely and informative experience and I think we all left feeling good!