

Member's Meeting with Dr. Judy Kantrowitz

Judy Kantrowitz, a Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst with the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, was the guest speaker at our Member's Meeting on September 20, 2013, at The Essex Resort and Spa. Dr. Kantrowitz presented two clinical cases and discussed the theoretical and clinical issues raised by each case. A lively discussion amongst the members, candidates and Dr. Kantrowitz followed.

Due to concerns regarding confidentiality, I cannot reference the content of Dr. Kantrowitz's clinical case presentations. However, I can give the reader a sense of the evening and Dr. Kantrowitz's ideas. Dr. Kantrowitz is the author of many psychoanalytic articles and books covering a variety of topics that demonstrate the breadth and depth of her psychoanalytic thinking. What came across in her clinical presentation is her deep respect for her patients and for the analytic process. She is a very thoughtful clinician who is not wedded to any one theory but instead draws understanding from a variety of perspectives as she allows the clinical material of each patient to guide her. She makes use of self-reflection regarding the counter-transference but also respects the fact that we will always be missing part of what we unconsciously bring to the analytic encounter. She is quite genuinely humble and open to different ways of thinking, attributes that make her an engaging and thought-provoking speaker.

As Dr. Kantrowitz spoke I was reminded of one of her unique contributions to the field, the idea that for some narcissistic patients, "otherness itself is extruded" and that once the analyst, through much hard, work, helps the patient to "believe that the analyst recognizes and respects the patient's self, separate and unique from the analyst's self, then the patient can give ""otherness" mental representation" (Kantrowitz, 2008 p.365). This allows the patient to recognize their conflicts with others as also being internal conflicts, conflicts within themselves.

On behalf of the membership, I would like to again thank Dr. Kantrowitz for her willingness to travel up from Boston to share her thoughts and enthusiasm with us.

Kantrowitz, J.L. (2008) Employing Multiple Theories and Evoking New Ideas: The Use of Clinical Material. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 89:355-368.

Bill Butler