Ellen Pinsky, PsyD

Death and Fallibility in the Psychoanalytic Encounter: Mortal Gifts

Routledge, 2017

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
141 Herrick Rd, Newton MA 02459

7:30 p.m. reception
8:00 p.m. book discussion in the library
9:15 p.m. book signing

Registration is required: click here or email library@bpsi.org

About the Book

Death and Fallibility in the Psychoanalytic Encounter considers psychoanalysis from a fresh perspective: the therapist's mortality - in at least two senses of the word. That the therapist can die, and is also fallible, can be seen as necessary or even defining components of the therapeutic process. At every moment, the analyst's vulnerability and human limitations underlie the work, something rarely openly acknowledged.

"Mortal Gifts is a necessary book - necessary for analysts and necessary for the analyses they conduct. In it Ellen Pinsky addresses a long-neglected issue in the practice of psychoanalysis: the analyst's failure to include in the very fiber of the analysis the fact of his or her mortality. This omission is not a minor matter. It arises from deep-seated fears in the analyst that prevent him or her from being fully present in the analysis-facing one's mortality is an integral part of being emotionally present. The book is intelligent, honest, beautifully written, and emotionally moving. What it has to teach is an essential part of the process of becoming an analyst." ~ Thomas Ogden, author of Reclaiming Unlived Life and This Art of Psychoanalysis.

The book is on sale in the library at a discounted price!