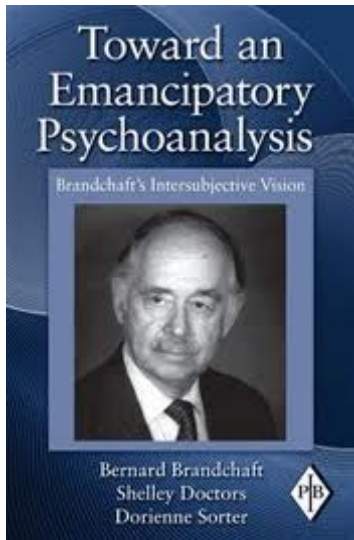


# Bernard Brandchaft died February 2, 2013



**From Shelley Doctors, IAPSP.**

With profound sadness, we share with you the news that our beloved (Dr.) Bernard Brandchaft died peacefully on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was quintessentially an intrepid seeker of the truth. Bernie's passion for psychoanalytic exploration led him on a journey through drive theory, ego psychology, and object relations before he became part of Heinz Kohut's circle early in the development of Self Psychology. At his side always was his wife, Elaine Brandchaft, who died last year and who he surely missed terribly. At the end of a career spanning over 60 years, he was best known for his collaboration with (Drs.) Robert Stolorow and George Atwood and their conjoint development of intersubjectivity theory and practice.

His odyssey emanated from a deeply held, unwavering refusal to fit a patient to a theory. He gained the everlasting respect and admiration of hundreds, if not thousands, of students, supervisees, and colleagues around the world for his strength of character. Whether in his consulting room, his presentations, or publications, when he realized that he had been wrong, even when others were convinced he was right, he owned his errors, respecting the goal of grasping a patient's subjective psychological reality above all else. A memorial service will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am at Westwood Memorial Park, 1218 Glendon Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024.

*Shelley Doctors*

**Fromm Lucyann Carlton, IAPSP**

Dear Self Psychology Community,

With sadness, I share the news of the passing of Bernard Brandchaft this last Saturday. I will post information about memorial donations as I receive it from his family.

I will also share here reflections on Bernie's life as I receive them from our members who were personally very close to him. In 2010, our Annual conference was dedicated to Bernie on the occasion of the publication of his book, *Toward an Emancipatory Psychoanalysis: Brandchaft's Intersubjective Vision*, co-authored with Doriene Sorter and Shelley Doctors. We honored

Bernie and his remarkable and original work as a theoretician, as a clinician, and as a supervisor.

Bernie dedicated his career to the advancement of psychoanalytic theory and practice. He was continually searching for a theoretical viewpoint that would satisfactorily explain various clinical phenomena he was encountering with his patients. His curiosity eventually led him to the work of Heinz Kohut and the then-emerging school of self psychology. However, Bernie constantly reformulated his ideas in original ways that sought to stay close to the experiences of his patients and the intersubjective nature of human experiences.

Bernie was a truly visionary psychoanalytic thinker and a much admired and beloved member of our community.

Lucyann Carlton, [l.carlton@ME.COM]

### **A beautiful song captures the dialectic of loss and continuance.**

Published on February 4, 2013 by Robert D. Stolorow, Ph.D. in Feeling, Relating, Existing

My dear friend and close collaborator, Bernard Brandchaft, died two days ago at the age of 96. His death evoked a memory of my reaction to the death long ago of another friend and psychoanalytic innovator, Heinz Kohut, who created the perspective known as The Psychoanalytic Psychology of the Self. Following Kohut's death on October 8, 1981, I experienced a writer's block for several months. Whenever I sat down to write, I felt paralyzed with exhaustion. After several months of this block, I had a dream that resolved it. I was with Kohut in his study at his summer home in Carmel, California, the site of my last visit with him, and he was very sick. I said, "Heinz, you look so tired. Maybe you should lie down and rest." When I woke up from this dream, I realized that I had been trying to deal with the loss of my friend by preserving an aspect of him in me through identifying with his state of being as he was dying. Understanding this, I could write again. The vignette provides a clear example of what I am calling *the dialectic of loss and continuance*, a dialectic that Freud wrote about in his classic article, "Mourning and Melancholia." I will preserve aspects of my friend Bernie in me as well.

The dialectic of loss and continuance is beautifully captured by the song, "Out to Sea," written by Stephanie Stolorow to commemorate the scattering of her grandmother's ashes in the waters of Monterey Bay, and performed by her and her brother Ben Stolorow under the name "Stoli Rose." Here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijkwwjP16Qs>

Listen closely to the themes interweaving throughout the lyrics, as Stephanie both grieves the loss and preserves the bond with her grandmother within her own being.

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<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201302/out-sea>