The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia presents...

## From Delight to Wisdom: The Healing Impact of Poetry

Featuring

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Sunday, June 14th, 2020 3:00pm to 4:30 pm

Via Zoom

With the basic premise that poetry is one-person psychotherapy and psychotherapy is two-person poetry, this presentation will address the nature of poetry as well as its healing impact on the human mind. The various formal characteristics of poetry (e.g., meter, rhyme, alliteration, simile, metaphor) evoke a dualism on the one hand and magically overcome that very dualism on the other. They enhance emotional investment in links, bonds, and psychic tethers. All in all, poetry serves a bridging function between (1) phonetic and instinctual, (2) unknown and known, (3) separateness and merger, and (4) music and prose. The last mentioned bridge has also interesting links with the mother's body and the father's law-giving words. It is via the construction of such bridges alongside their kindling neurophysiological effects that poetry exerts its healing impact.

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