

A Bionian Experience in the Magic Gardens

DAYNA SHARP, LCSW

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

2:30PM - 5:30PM

MAGIC GARDENS - 1020 SOUTH ST, PHILADELPHIA, PA

2.5 CE/CMES AVAILABLE

"Let us try to describe what happens in the analyst's consulting room. The patient arrives with a variously sized bottle of ink (his anxieties and proto-emotions—in the jargon, his beta elements), which he keeps pouring on to the special kind of blotting paper represented by the field. The field absorbs the ink and becomes thoroughly soaked in it. Analyst and patient dip their pens into this ink to write down the text of the session. What was previously a mere formless blot is transformed into stories, narrations, and constructions. In this way, what at first had a soiling effect becomes susceptible to thought, narration, and sharing." (Civitarese & Ferro, 2013, p. 201)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Step into the mosaic field of Philadelphia's Magic Gardens through a Bionian lens. This experiential workshop invites participants to absorb the Gardens as a living metaphor for Bion's ideas on perception, thought, and transformation. Drawing on key readings from Bion and his contemporaries, we will use the Gardens as a space for observation, reverie, and discovery—dipping our pens into its "ink" and transforming chaotic fragments, screens, and impressions into shared thought, narration, and intersubjective meaning.

Participants will gather at the Magic Gardens (1020 South St, Philadelphia, PA 19147) on Friday, November 7, 2025 at 2:30 PM for an hour of independent and small group exploration. Bring a notebook or sketchbook to jot down your impressions during the journey. Following this immersive experience, we will reconvene at the William Way Community Center (1315 Spruce St, Philadelphia, PA 19107) from 4:00–5:30 PM for a facilitated group discussion.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Dayna Sharp is a Clinical Social Worker and Psychoanalyst working in private practice. She serves as a mentor in the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia's Fellowship program, where she completed a two year psychotherapy program, and teaches at the Institute of the Psychoanalytic Study of Subjectivity in NYC, where she completed her formal analytic training. She has additionally taught for the National Institute for the Psychotherapies and the Tehran Psychoanalytic Institute.

RSVP
HERE!

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EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe and summarize Bion's concepts of beta elements, alpha elements, and alpha functioning, to demonstrate alpha functioning in vivo, and to apply these concepts to their clinical work.
2. Analyze Bion's ideas on therapeutic action ("beam of darkness", "memory and desire", reverie, etc), and be able to apply these in their clinical work.
3. Examine the usefulness of Bion's ideas in treating patients with trauma, and will be able synthesize his foundational ideas with current thinking from neuroscience and trauma theory.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION/CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Medical Education (CME):

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates these Live Activities for a maximum of 2.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS: None of the planners and presenters of this CME program have any relevant financial relationships to disclose.



Continuing Education for Psychologists (CE):

The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Every session of this program offers CE credit for psychologists.

Continuing Education for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors (CE): In accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of PA dated 12/23/06 [PA Code: Title 49, Ch. 47-49], The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors recognizes the American Psychological Association (APA) as a preapproved provider of continuing education programs for social workers and clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors in the State of Pennsylvania. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education programs.

For more information, please contact the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia:

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