Towards a New Psychology of Adoption: The Wounded Orphan: 
Living in exile and the search for home 
Robert Childs, PsyD.

Friday, March 13, 2015, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Cost $25  2 CEUs

While there is no one experience of being adopted, all adoptees start out from the same place, that is of course, the place of abandonment, which John Boswell (1988) has noted has its closest equivalent in Latin to the word “exposure”. Using dreams to explore the wilderness of the archetypal nature of this wound, we will examine how the experience of abandonment is carried in the psyche as well as look at how the healing process is portrayed in the therapeutic journey. This talk will focus on developing a new understanding of the psychology of the experience of adoption through the lens of the orphaned element of the adoptees experience and extend the alchemical metaphor of the orphan to include all that lies in the vessel but remains untransformed or untouched. This seminar will benefit clinicians who work with anyone touched by the adoption triad (Adoptees/Adoptive Parents/Birth Parents) as well as anyone interested in learning about the nature of this experience.

Dr. Bob Childs teaches courses in the Clinical Doctoral program at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology specializing in the areas of Spirituality and Jungian Psychology, Humanistic and Existential Psychology as well as Clinical Supervision. His background includes training in Jungian Analysis, as well as having been a fellow at Harvard Divinity School. Having worked in private practice in the greater Boston area for many years, his clinical specialties include the Psychology of Adoption, working with artists in various mediums on creativity and the psychological process, as well as working with the Psychology of Twinship. His most recent article is entitled Agency and Self Experience: The Religious Function of the Psyche in The Annals of Theoretical Psychology, Vol 12, 2015.