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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AGPA TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN GROUP-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS  
IN NEW YORK CITY, FEBRUARY 22-27, 2016**

**NEW YORK, October 9, 2015** – The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is coming to New York City for its 2016 Annual Training, February 22-27 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. Entitled “Transformation in Group: From Isolation to Connection,” this meeting attracts over 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. The theme reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals, families and communities in meaningful ways to effect change on personal and societal levels.

“The AGPA Annual Meeting is the source for experiential training in leading therapeutic groups,” said Les Greene, Ph.D., CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. “It is a one-of-a-kind educational opportunity that teaches group skills in an innovative format that blends learning with self-care and rejuvenation.”

The meeting will include more than 200 programming events over six days. Following are some highlights:

- Two Special Institutes will be offered this year on Monday, February 22, providing experiential learning in a large group. **Macario Giraldo, PhD, CGP** will present “**From the Discourse of the Other to the Discourse with Others: A Lacanian View on the Psychoanalytic Group**” and **Ronald Siegel, PsyD.** will present “**Mindfulness in Group Therapy: Tailoring the Practice to the Problem.**”
- **Stewart Aledort, M.D., CGP, FAGPA** will deliver the Institute Opening Address on Tuesday, February 23, “**Coming in from the Cold: Conversation with a Stone.**” Using the poem “Conversation with a Stone” by Wislawa Szymborska as a touchpoint, Dr. Aledort will address the dynamics of the unconscious and the good and bad fits of members inherent in any group process, as well as the leaders’ shared experiences as the group develops over the two days.
- **Lee Mun Wah**, internationally renowned Chinese American documentary filmmaker (“The Color of Fear” and “If These Halls Could Talk”) author, educator, community therapist, and master diversity trainer will present the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event, Wednesday, February 24, entitled “**Walking Each Other Home: The Art of Creating Community & Connection.**” **Mr. Mun Wah** will explore ways to give voice to and repair the

divisive issues that keep people from coming together as a nation, as a community and in our personal relationships.

- **Salman Akhtar, MD** is presenting the Conference Opening Plenary on Thursday, February 25, entitled "**The Mental Pain of Minorities: Social and Clinical Aspects.**" Dr. Akhtar will address the causes and effects of the chronic mental pain of minorities and explore concrete, collaborative societal measures that can address this pain and raise all sections of society to a higher humanitarian ground, benefitting all communities.
- Incoming AGPA President, **Eleanor Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, LFAGPA** will deliver the Annual Anne and Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Address, Friday, February 26 entitled, "First You Put the Chairs in a Circle: Becoming a Group Therapist." Dr. Counselman will share the personal, professional and interpersonal strengths and challenges that make up the rich and rewarding life experience of developing an identity as a group therapist.
- **Robert Grossmark, Ph.D.**, will deliver the Louis R. Ormont Lecture on Saturday, February 27. In "**Narrating the Unsayable: Enactment, Repair and Creative Multiplicity in Group Psychotherapy,**" Dr. Grossmark will introduce a therapeutic approach in which a narrative enactment of a traumatic event promotes healing through the therapeutic benefits of group witnessing, validation and support.

This one-of-a-kind event, bringing together many of the nation's leading group therapists, will explore the variety of ways in which group therapy can help people and communities in today's world. Scholarships are also available to attend this Meeting. For more information, contact AGPA at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA 2016 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org) or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

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## About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has approximately 2,500 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 26 local and regional societies located across the country. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning.

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