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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION TO AWARD DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIPS TO JEFFREY KLEINBERG, PH.D., CGP, FAGPA AND ZIPORA SHECHTMAN, PH.D., FAGPA IN NEW YORK CITY

New York, Feb. 23, 2016— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced that **Jeffrey Kleinberg, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA and Zipora Shechtman, Ph.D., FAGPA** will be awarded Distinguished Fellowship in the Association at its upcoming 2016 Annual Meeting, February 22 - February 27 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. Distinguished Fellowship is the highest honor bestowed by the Association, recognizing outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of group psychotherapy.

Dr. Kleinberg has been a highly respected leader in AGPA locally, nationally and internationally. He has served as President of AGPA, a member of the AGPA, Group Foundation and Certification Boards of Directors, and chaired several committees. He has been President of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society and its Treasurer, as well as Editor of the Journal *Group*. Currently, he is an elected Board Member of the International Association of Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes. Dr. Kleinberg is active as a clinician, administrator, teacher, supervisor and organizational consultant. He holds academic appointments at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, LaGuardia Community College and DeVry University and has served as Assistant to the University Dean, CUNY, Dean of Students and Associate Dean, La Guardia Community College, as well as Executive Associate to the President. He was Assistant Dean of the Training Institute, Postgraduate Center of Mental Health and Co-Director of the Adult Psychoanalytic Training Program. Dr. Kleinberg is a renowned trainer and consultant internationally. He has served as visiting faculty for Group Psychotherapy Training, Chengdu, China and the Shanghai Mental Health Center. Dr. Kleinberg has numerous publications and presentations and most recently edited *The Handbook of Group Psychotherapy*.

Dr. Shechtman is a highly respected teacher, clinician and researcher, with particular emphasis on child and adolescent populations. She has held positions in numerous academic settings in the United States and internationally. She has been Editor and Associate Editor of the *Hayeutz Hahinuci*, (Counselor Education Journal of Israel) and *Group Dynamics Theory, Research and Practice*, (APA), Chair of the Research Committee of Division 49 (APA); Chair of the AGPA Research SIG; and Chair of the Committee of the Emotional Needs of the Gifted, Israeli Academy of Sciences. She has also served as a Grant Reviewer for the Ministry of Education in Israel, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health (as a Co-Chair of the Research SIG) and the Israeli Science Foundation. Dr. Shechtman presents internationally, has

authored three books, numerous book chapters and articles and has supervised fourteen Ph.D. dissertations and forty M.A. theses. She is a Fellow of APA, the American Counseling Association and the International Society for Research in Aggression. In 2015 she was awarded the Group Psychologist of the Year Award through APA Division 49; in 2012, the award for Excellence in Research, APA Division 49; and in 2011, the Career Award of the Israeli Ministry of Education-Counseling and Psychological Unit, which is the highest award given to professionals in the education field in Israel.

“The Distinguished Fellowship designation recognizes those who are seminal leaders, teachers, clinicians, researchers and authors in the global community of group psychotherapy,” said Les R. Greene, Ph.D., CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. “Drs. Kleinberg and Shechtman, with their local, national and internationally renowned leadership in AGPA and the group psychotherapy field, epitomize this recognition.”

Dr. Shechtman’s Award presentation will take place during the Membership Community Meeting, Thursday, February 25 at 5:15 PM. Dr. Kleinberg’s Award presentation will take place during the Plenary Session, Friday, February 26 at 8:30 AM.

Contributions in honor of Drs. Kleinberg and Shechtman can be made to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health at www.agpa.org.

This award presentation is a highlight of the AGPA’s 2016 Annual Training in New York City. Entitled “Transformation in Group: From Isolation to Connection,” this meeting attracts more than 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. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

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

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 over 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.