



AMERICAN GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
GROUP FOUNDATION
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP
PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH LUNCHEON IN NEW YORK CITY CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS FEBRUARY 27, 2016

NEW YORK, Feb. 18, 2016— During the American Group Psychotherapy Association’s (AGPA) Annual Meeting in New York City, February 22-27, 2016, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, the philanthropic arm of the AGPA, will once again sponsor a luncheon honoring scholarship and award winners, as well as the generous contributors who make the program possible. A myriad of tuition, travel and monetary awards, supporting the training of group therapists and the use of group in communities to effect change, are distributed through the Foundation. A highlight of the celebration will be a performance by ALIVE! 55+ and Kickin’.

Award recipients being honored include:

- **AGPA Member Nina K. Thomas, Ph.D., ABPP, CPG is receiving the Social Responsibility Award for her sustained, decades-long work in social activism and trauma work nationally and internationally.**
- **The Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Therapy will be presented to Deborah C. Schwartz M.D., FRCPC, FAGPA, CGP, Marcia S. Nickow Psy.D., CADC, CGP, Ric Arseneau M.D., FRCPC, FACP, CGP and Mary T. Gisslow M.D. for their article "A Substance Called Food: Long-term Psychodynamic Group Treatment for Compulsive Overeating."**
- **The Big Apple Playback Theatre of New York, NY is receiving the Aaron Stein Memorial Award for their creative use of groups in non-therapeutic settings to benefit the community.**
- **190 individuals have received scholarships to attend the meeting, supported through endowed scholarship funds and private donations.**

“The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is privileged to honor those whose use of groups in clinical and community settings helps people in need,” said Phyllis Cohen, Ph.D., PsyD, CGP, L FAGPA, Chairwoman of the Board. “This luncheon is also our opportunity to publicly thank our donors, whose generous contributions make it possible for us to carry out our mission, including the training of those new to the field.”

This luncheon 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 invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA 2016 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA and the Group Foundation

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.

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization dedicated to changing lives through therapeutic group work by advancing the most effective and innovative approaches to group therapy education, training, research and community outreach. Among the Foundation's most vital roles is the recognition of excellence, promise, and vision by honoring those individuals and groups who have demonstrated these qualities with awards and scholarships.

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