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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AGPA ANNOUNCES GROUP THERAPY TRAINING SUPPORT FOR CLINICIANS AND CHAPLAINS  
WORKING WITH ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERANS**

**NEW YORK, December 8, 2017**— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) welcomes all clinicians and chaplains working with active military and veterans to **AGPA Connect**, its Annual Training Week in Houston, entitled “The Healing Power of Groups in a Fragmented World.” In recognition of the care and service such individuals have been providing to the men and women who have served, current and past, in missions throughout the world, AGPA is offering a 35% registration discount for this conference as well as opportunities for tuition support through the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, the organization’s philanthropic arm.

“Groups have a long history of successfully working with active troops and veteran populations, dating back to World War II,” said Eleanor Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, L FAGPA, AGPA President. “We are privileged to be able to provide this training and support at **AGPA Connect** to those who are helping the men and women of the U.S. military, veterans and their families.”

There are a variety of educational opportunities on the **AGPA Connect** program with relevance for military personnel and veterans’ hospital and agency staff, including:

- **“Humiliation, Shame & Guilt: Healing Assaults to Self in the Context of Group”** – a two-day institute with Suzanne Phillips, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA.
- **“Dissociative Reenactments and Other Trauma Reactions in Members and Leader-Psychodynamic Theory and Group Interventions”** – a workshop with Leo Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA.
- **“Trauma, Torture and Displacement: Finding Connection and Self in Group”** – an open session with Andrew Eig, PhD, ABPP, Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith, PhD, Hawthorne Smith, PhD and Suzanne Phillips, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA.
- **“On the Frontlines of Trauma: Two Innovative Group Treatment Models in Response to Mass Violence”** – a workshop with Jorge Burmeister, MD, Isaac Etoku, BA and Gaea Loga, LPC-S, CGP, FAGPA.
- **“Group Treatment of the Spectrum of Trauma: Disasters to Daily Events”** – a workshop with Bonnie Buchele, PhD, ABPP, CGP, DFAGPA.
- **“Silence Speaks in Group Therapy: Working with Traumatized People Living in Constant Traumatic Events”** – a colloquy with Nihaya Aburayyan, MA.

- “**The Frightened, the Angry, and the Mobilized: Group Practitioner Postures towards Trouble in Our Society**” – an open session with Siddarth Shah, MD, MPH, Klair Latino, LCSW, Dawn McCarty, PhD, MSW and Sorin Thomas, MA, LPC, LAC.
- “**Qi Gong Focused Group: Utilizing the Body to Cope with Traumatic Events**” – a workshop with Nurit Gafni, MA.
- “**Repair and Reframe: Present-Centered Group Therapy for Veterans with PTSD**” – a workshop with Daniel Gross, MSW and Melissa Wattenberg, PhD, CGP.

**AGPA Connect 2018** 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, a valuable 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](http://www.agpa.org).

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend other select sessions of **AGPA Connect 2018**. 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*

For 75 Years the American Group Psychotherapy Association has been the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy. It operates 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 21 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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