



AMERICAN GROUP  
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION  
GROUP FOUNDATION  
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH  
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR  
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP  
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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 MARCH 11, 2017

NEW YORK, March 6, 2017— During the American Group Psychotherapy Association's (AGPA) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting this week in New York City, March 6-11, 2017, 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 "Still Grouping After All These Years," a musical comedy tribute to AGPA on its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, developed by Sandy Hutton and AGPA Distinguished Fellow and Past President David Hawkins, and featuring AGPA's most gifted performing members!

Award recipients being honored include:

- **The Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Therapy will be presented to two outstanding recipients.**
  - Ravit Raufman PhD and Haim Weinberg, PhD, CGP will receive it for their article "To Enter One's Skin: The Concrete and Symbolic Functions of the Skin in the Social Unconscious, as Expressed in Fairy Tales and Group Therapy."
  - John R. Schlapobersky, BA, MSC will receive it for his book "From The Couch To The Circle: Group-Analytic Psychotherapy In Practice"
- **Theater of War 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.** Theater of War will be on the AGPA program presenting an Open Session on Friday, March 10, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, "Waking History: Examining Violence and Betrayal Through Greek Drama to Group Psychotherapy" (media are invited to attend this session).

- **Over 200 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 Karen S. Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, 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, and to celebrate AGPA on the occasion of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.”

This luncheon is a highlight of the AGPA’s 2017 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Training in New York City. Entitled “Connecting, Educating, and Leading for 75 Years: The Theory, Science, and Practice of Group Therapy,” 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 celebrates AGPA’s history of 75 years of demonstrating 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 select sessions of the AGPA 2017 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 and the Group Foundation*

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 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.