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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO TAKE OFFICE IN HOUSTON MARCH 2, 2018

NEW YORK, February 26, 2018— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced today the new Officers and members of the Board of Directors who will be installed at AGPA Connect in Houston, February 26-March 3, 2018 at the Westin Galleria and Westin Oaks Hotels.

Barry Helfmann, PsyD, CGP, DFAGPA will be assuming the position of President of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. Dr. Helfmann is the Managing Partner of Short Hills Associates in Clinical Psychology. He is formerly Director of Professional Affairs of the New Jersey Psychological Association, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Consultant to Private Practices. He was awarded Psychologist of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the New Jersey Psychological Association (NJPA). He is past president of NJPA and the New Jersey Group Psychotherapy Society.

“AGPA is the professional home to thousands of group therapists who provide help to those in need,” said Eleanor Counselman, EdD, CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. “The organization is privileged to have the experience and strong leadership of Dr. Helfmann in place to guide us over the coming years.”

Other members of the tri-organizations who will be taking office will be as follows:

AGPA Officers

Molyn Leszcz, M.D., FRCPC, CGP, DFAGPA, President-Elect

Hank Fallon, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, Treasurer, 2018-2020

Martha L. Gilmore, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, Secretary, 2018-2020

AGPA Newly Elected Board Members

Claudia Arlo, MSW, LCSW-R, ICADC, CGP

Shari Y. Baron, MSN, CNS, CGP, FAGPA

Aaron E. Black, Ph.D., CGP

Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, CGP, Chair-Elect, Affiliate Societies Assembly

Leonardo (Leo) M. Leiderman, Psy.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA

Jeanne Pasternak, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA

Michele D. Ribeiro, Ed.D., CGP

Lorraine B. Wodiska, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA

Jana Rosenbaum, LCSW, CGP, Member-at-Large, Affiliate Societies Assembly

AGPA Continuing Board Members

Eleanor F. Counselman, EdD, CGP, LFAGPA, Retiring President, AGPA
Maryetta K. Andrews-Sachs, MA, LICSW, CGP, FAGPA, Chair, Affiliate Societies Assembly

Justin B. Hecht, PhD, CGP, FAGPA

Barbara A. Keezell, MSW, CGP, FAGPA

Janice M. Morris, PhD, CGP, FAGPA

Keith J. Rand, MA, MFT, CGP, FAGPA

Joseph J. Shay, PhD, CGP, FAGPA

Tony L. Sheppard, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA, International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists Chairman of the Board

Karen S. Travis, MSW, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health Chairwoman of the Board

Contributions in honor of Dr. Helfmann or any of the new leadership may be made to the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health at www.agpa.org, or via phone at (212) 477-2677 or mail to 25 East 21st Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY, 10010; please indicate the individual to be notified regarding the receipt of the gift in their honor.

This leadership transition is a highlight of AGPA Connect 2018 in Houston. Entitled “The Healing Power of Groups in a Fragmented World,” 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 AGPA Connect 2018. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call (212) 477-2677.

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 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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