



**AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON IN SAN FRANCISCO  
CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS**

**NEW YORK, Feb. 16, 2006**— During the American Group Psychotherapy Association's (AGPA) 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Feb. 20-25, the Group Psychotherapy Foundation (GPF), charitable 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 the San Francisco Taiko Dojo, demonstrating an ancient drumming ritual that is a powerful, sophisticated synthesis of rhythm, harmony and body movement and embodies the power of group effort as it seeks complete respect and unity among the drummers. Media are invited to attend this event. Awards being presented include:

- The West Coast Children's Clinic Grandparent-Child Support Program is receiving the Aaron Stein Memorial Award for the creative use of groups in non-therapeutic settings to benefit the community.
- Kathleen Adams, Ph.D., CGP is receiving the Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Therapy for her paper, "Falling Forever: The Price of Chronic Shock."
- More than 90 individuals have received scholarships to attend the meeting, supported through endowed scholarship funds and private donations.

"The Group Psychotherapy Foundation is honored and privileged to be able to support the use of groups in clinical and community settings and we congratulate those who have earned this support," said Patricia Barth, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, GPF Chairwoman of the Board. "This luncheon is also our opportunity to publicly thank our contributors, who make it financially possible for us to carry out our mission."

This luncheon is a highlight of the AGPA's 2006 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Feb. 20-25 at the Westin St. Francis. Entitled "Bridging Differences: Healing a House Divided," this meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the United States. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations and to further their professional development with this powerful and effective treatment modality. The theme, Bridging Differences, reflects the meeting's emphasis on the power of groups to bring people together to heal and create resiliency. For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 477-2677 or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Media are invited to attend other select sessions of the AGPA 2006 Annual Meeting. To register, please send e-mail request to [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org) or call 404.898.0423.

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The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the oldest and largest professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Psychotherapy Foundation, its philanthropic arm; and the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has approximately 3,000 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 31 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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