



AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATION'S LEADING GROUP THERAPISTS GATHER
AT AGPA ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO**

NEW YORK, Nov. 21, 2005 — The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is coming to San Francisco for its 2006 Annual Meeting 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.

“The AGPA Annual Meeting provides opportunities for learning, dialoging and sharing our special interests, as well as time for fun,” said Robert Klein, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “It is a hallmark event in the field of group therapy.”

The meeting will include more than 200 programming events over six days. Following are some highlights:

- **Irvin Yalom, M.D., D FAGPA and Melyn Leszcz, M.D., FRCPC, CGP, co-authors of *The Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy (Fifth Edition)***, will deliver a Special Institute Presentation entitled “The Schopenhauer Cure: Group Therapy Demonstration and Discussion.” This presentation provides an opportunity to create, demonstrate and analyze a group as it brings to life the characters in Dr. Yalom’s latest book, *The Schopenhauer Cure* (HarperCollins).
- **George Lakoff, Ph.D.**, Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of *Don’t Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values, Frame the Debate* will present “The Family Morality and Politics: Strict and Nurturant Parents,” which addresses the concept of family models and how they are reflected in and affect societal issues.
- **Daniel Siegel, M.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine and author of the internationally acclaimed text, *The Developing Mind: Toward a Neurobiology of Interpersonal Experience*, will speak on “The Social Brain in Human Relationships: Insights from Interpersonal Neurobiology,” a newly emerging view of the connections between the mind, the brain and human relationships.
- **AGPA President-Elect, Elizabeth Knight, LMSW, CGP, FAGPA** will deliver her Presidential Address “Beyond Survival: The Role of AGPA in the ‘Bowling Alone’ World of the 21st Century,” focusing on the challenges of promoting the benefits of group in a society where the isolation of individuals may be growing.

- **Disaster Response Protocols for Group Based Interventions**, developed by AGPA and based upon lessons learned from national and international response efforts, will provide the content for several courses on working with populations including adults and children, caregivers, uniformed service workers and working in schools.

This one-of-a-kind event, bringing together many of the nation's leading group therapists, will explore the variety of ways in which group therapy provides opportunities for healing in today's world. For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 477-2677 or visit www.agpa.org.

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

About AGPA

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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