



AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

25 East 21st Street, 6th Floor

New York, NY 10010 (212) 477-2677

Toll Free: (877) 668-AGPA (2472) Fax: (212) 979-6627

E-mail: info@agpa.org Website: www.agpa.org

Media Contacts:

Diane C. Feirman, CAE

(212) 477-2677

dfeirman@agpa.org

Claudia D'Avanzo/Manning Willard

(404) 898-0423

willard@healthcomminc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AGPA INCOMING PRESIDENT ELIZABETH KNIGHT'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO FOCUS ON THE
ROLE OF ASSOCIATIONS IN THE 'BOWLING ALONE' WORLD OF THE 21ST CENTURY**

NEW YORK, Feb. 13, 2006— The American Group Psychotherapy Association's (AGPA) incoming President **Elizabeth Knight, LMSW, CGP, FAGPA**, will deliver her Presidential Address at the AGPA's 63rd Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Feb. 20-25. The address is entitled "Beyond Survival: The Role of AGPA in the 'Bowling Alone' World of the 21st Century" and will focus on the challenges of promoting the benefits of group in a society where the isolation of individuals may be growing. These concepts, applied in this case to AGPA, have a wider impact in a culture which some assert (Putnam, *Bowling Alone*) has lost the social glue that allows our personal relationships, families and social groups to adhere. Media are invited to attend this session.

Knight, a clinician in private practice in Houston and a Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine and University of Texas Health and Science Center of Houston, believes this topic has broad import. "The culture of the world in which we live affects us as an organization, and individually as group psychotherapists, as we work to support our communities and the people in them," said Knight. "Our belief in the power of groups to heal makes it imperative that we be aware of these particular challenges."

This session is a highlight of 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.

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 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.