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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AGPA INCOMING PRESIDENT CONNIE CONCANNON'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO FOCUS  
ON "THE MYSTERY AND MAGIC OF THE GROUP," FEBRUARY 22, 2008**

**NEW YORK, Jan. 30, 2008**— The American Group Psychotherapy Association's (AGPA) incoming President **Connie Concannon, MSW, CGP, FAGPA**, will deliver her Presidential Address at the AGPA's 65th Annual Meeting in Washington DC, Feb. 18-23. The address is entitled "The Mystery and Magic of the Group: What Happens Here That Happens Nowhere Else" and will focus on the ability of groups to stimulate new thinking and foster change in individuals, communities and the world-at-large. These concepts, applied in this case to AGPA, have a wider impact in a diverse society requiring individuals to work together to effect social change. Media are invited to attend this session.

Concannon, a clinical social worker in private practice in Walnut Creek, CA and Associate Clinical Professor, University of California, Department of Psychiatry, believes this topic has broad import. "There is a collective wisdom that develops in groups that can be transformative for individuals, organizations and communities." said Concannon. "There are tremendous opportunities in the use of groups to address and resolve even the most controversial and difficult issues."

This session is a highlight of the AGPA's 2008 Annual Meeting in Washington DC, Feb. 18-23 at the Hilton Washington Hotel. Entitled "Passion, Power and Politics: Dynamic Interplay in Groups," 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, Passion, Power and Politics, reflects the meeting's emphasis on the dynamics that occur in groups, whether small or large, public or private, that can effect change on micro and macro levels. 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 2008 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org) or call 212.477.2677.

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***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, 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 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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