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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATION'S LEADING GROUP THERAPISTS GATHER AT AGPA ANNUAL MEETING IN CHICAGO, IL

NEW YORK, October 22, 2008 — The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is coming to Chicago, IL for its 2009 Annual Meeting, February 16-21 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. Entitled “Strong Group Foundations: Building Lasting Communities,” 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 reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the positive effects of well-functioning groups on society.

“The AGPA Annual Meeting provides mental health professionals with an unparalleled experience for learning, networking and professional and personal development,” said Connie Concannon, M.S.W., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “It is a unique educational opportunity that provides training along with personal rejuvenation.”

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

- Two Special Institutes will be offered this year, providing a unique opportunity for experiential learning in a large group. **Jerrold Post, M.D.**, Professor of Psychiatry, Political Psychology and International Affairs and Director of the Political Psychology Program at George Washington University will present “The Group Psychology of Political Behavior” and **Elliot Zeisel, Ph.D., LCSW, CGP, FAGPA**, Director of the Group Department of the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies in New York City and a private practitioner will lead “The Development of the Interpersonal Ego in Group Treatment.”
- **Robert Anthony Pape, Jr., Ph.D.**, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago will present the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event on “What Motivates Suicide Terrorists,” exploring the inherent psychic make-up of suicide bombers.
- **Priscilla Kauff, Ph.D., CGP, DFAGPA**, Clinical Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry at the Weill Medical School of Cornell University and Associate Attending Psychologist in Psychiatry at New York Presbyterian Hospital, will deliver the Institute Opening Address on “What’s Going On Inside?” Dr. Kauff will discuss the personal exploration and growth that contributes to the learning that takes place at the Institute.

- **Froma Walsh, M.S.W., Ph.D.**, Co-Director and Co-Founder of the Chicago Center for Family Health and the Mose and Sylvia Firestone Professor in the School of Social Service Administration and Department of Psychiatry, Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago, will give the Conference Opening Plenary Address, “Strengthening Family Resilience: Building Vital Kin and Community Bonds.” Dr. Walsh will address a family resilience practice approach in fostering recovery from crisis, trauma and loss.
- **J. Scott Rutan, Ph.D., CGP, DFAGPA**, Founder of the Center for Group Psychotherapy at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Co-Founder and Faculty of the Boston Institute of Psychotherapy, will present the inaugural Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary Address, speaking on “Strong Group Foundations: Building *Healing* Communities,” an exploration of the beneficial role of group therapy in the world’s communities.
- **The Group Psychotherapy Foundation** will sponsor a luncheon on Saturday, February 21 featuring a performance by IO Theatre, a Chicago Improvisational group, and honoring the recipients of a myriad of awards supporting the training of group therapists and the use of group in communities to effect change, which are distributed through the Foundation.

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 healthy communities in today’s world. 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 the AGPA 2009 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfairman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

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 over 2,000 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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