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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN GROUP-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN SAN DIEGO, FEBRUARY 22-27, 2010

NEW YORK, October 9, 2009 — The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is coming to San Diego, California for its 2010 Annual Meeting, February 22-27 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. Entitled “A New Decade: Sustaining Our World Through Groups,” this meeting attracts more than 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines will gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, particularly in today’s economic climate. The theme reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the effects of well-functioning groups on our global society.

“The AGPA Annual Meeting provides mental health professionals with the training and support they need to deliver this increasingly utilized, specialized mode of treatment,” said Connie Concannon, M.S.W., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “It is a unique educational opportunity that provides training hand-in-hand with the personal rejuvenation mental health professionals need to do their difficult work.”

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

- Two Special Institutes will be offered this year on Monday, February 22, providing a unique opportunity for experiential learning in a large group. **Stewart Aledort, M.D., CGP, FAGPA**, Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at George Washington University School of Medicine will present “**It Takes Courage to Live in a Good Fit-The Omnipotent Child in all its Glory and Shame.**” **Philip Flores, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA**, Adjunct Faculty at the Georgia School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University and Supervisor of Group Psychotherapy at Emory University will present “**Addiction as Attachment Disorder.**”
- **Walter Stone, M.D., CGP, DFAGPA**, will deliver the Institute Opening Address on Tuesday, February 23, “**Summer Camp and the AGPA Institute: What Do They Have in Common?**” addressing the unique environment of the Institute and how it translates into a quality learning experience.

- **Esther Perel, M.A., LMFT**, of The Family Studies Unit, Department of Psychiatry at New York University Medical Center and The International Trauma Studies Program at Columbia University, will present the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event, Wednesday, February 24, on **“The Erotic and the Domestic: The Pitfalls of Modern Intimacy.”** Ms. Perel, author of *Mating in Captivity* will address the paradoxical union of domesticity and sexual desire.
- **Nancy McWilliams, Ph.D.** is presenting the Annual Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary Address, Thursday, February 25, on “Mental Health: An Endangered Concept Individually and Communally.” Dr. McWilliams, Professor at the Graduate School of Applied & Professional Psychology at Rutgers University will address the hope and promise of psychotherapy, beyond symptom relief.
- Incoming AGPA President, **Jeffrey Kleinberg, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA**, will deliver his Presidential Address, Friday, February 26, on “Reaching Out, By Reaching In” on the use of groups and the AGPA in establishing a global community of collaboration.
- **Erving Polster, Ph.D.**, Director of the Gestalt Training Center in San Diego, will deliver the Louis R. Ormont Lecture on Saturday, February 27. Entitled “Life Focus Communities” the lecture will examine how the inter-relational benefits of psychotherapy can extend from private sessions to the public community.

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 can help people in today’s world and economy. Scholarships are also available to attend this Meeting. 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 2010 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the foremost 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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