



25 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10010

(877) 668-AGPA (2472)

[www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org)

---

Media Contact:

Diane C. Feirman, CAE

877-668-AGPA (2472)

[dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org)

---

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION TO AWARD DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIPS TO CECIL RICE, PH.D., CGP, FAGPA AND ESTHER STONE, MSSW, CGP, FAGPA IN NEW YORK, NY, MARCH 4, 2011**

**NEW YORK, Jan. 24, 2011**— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced that Cecil Rice, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA and Esther Stone, MSSW, CGP, FAGPA will be awarded Distinguished Fellowship in the Association at its upcoming 2011 Annual Meeting, February 28- March 5 at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers. The Award presentation will take place during the Plenary Session, Friday, March 4 at 8:30 AM. Distinguished Fellowship is the highest honor bestowed by the Association, recognizing outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of group psychotherapy.

Dr. Rice has been the Conductor for training groups (T-Groups) for psychiatric residents at Massachusetts General Hospital for twenty years. He is a co-founder of the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy where he currently serves as President. He has been an active volunteer with AGPA as well as its local affiliate, the Northeastern Society for Group Psychotherapy. Dr. Rice is the co-founder and spiritual progenitor of the Boston-Threshold Group, which sponsors conferences in Northern Ireland that focus on reconciliation among the competing factions and support of clinicians in the area working with the resulting traumas in the communities. He is a prolific writer, has been the Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy* for fourteen years and is a noted teacher, mentor and supervisor.

Ms. Stone has a distinguished clinical career, is an Adjunct Faculty Member at the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute, and is on faculty at the University of California in San Francisco. She is a tireless and noteworthy volunteer and leader on behalf of the field of group psychotherapy in national and international organizations, with exemplary service in AGPA, the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP), and the Tri-State and Northern California Group Psychotherapy Societies. Her dedication and work within these professional groups have resulted in programs, services and trainings that benefit group clinicians around the world.

“The Distinguished Fellowship designation recognizes those who are seminal leaders, teachers, clinicians and authors in the global community of group psychotherapy,” said Jeffrey Kleinberg, Ph.D.,

CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “Dr. Rice and Ms. Stone, with their internationally renowned leadership in the group psychotherapy field, epitomize this recognition.”

This award presentation is a highlight of the AGPA’s 2011 Annual Training in New York City. Entitled “Group as a Source of Resilience and Change,” 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 power of groups to effect change that contributes to societal strength and well-being. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend other select sessions of the AGPA 2011 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto: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 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.

# # #