



AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATION'S LEADING GROUP THERAPISTS GATHER

AT AGPA ANNUAL MEETING IN NATION'S CAPITOL

NEW YORK, January 7, 2008 — The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is coming to Washington D.C. for its 2008 Annual Meeting, February 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 AGPA Annual Meeting is a unique experience for learning, social networking and professional and personal rejuvenation." said Elizabeth Knight, M.S.W., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. "Our new track this year on "Caring for the Caregiver" provides the opportunity for those in the helping profession to take care of themselves."

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. **Yvonne Agazarian, Ed.D., CGP, DFAGPA**, Founder of the Systems-Centered Training Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will present "The Impact of 'Thinking Systems' Rather than 'Thinking People' on Group Psychotherapy" and **Ruthellen Josselson, Ph.D.**, of The Fielding Institute in Santa Barbara, California will lead "How People Create One Another in Groups."
- **Robert Michels, M.D.**, University Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry at Weill Medical College of Cornell University will present the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event on "Psychology and Politics," exploring how psychology can, and should be, an important tool in understanding political behavior.
- **Jeremy Holmes, M.D., MRCP, FRCPsych**, Visiting Professor at University College London and Senior Clinical Research Fellow at Peninsula Medical School, will give the Conference Opening Plenary Address, "I versus We: The Developmental Origins of Security and Insecurity in Groups – An Attachment Perspective." Dr. Holmes will explore the tension between narcissism and altruism and the need to attend to social and group dimensions as well as individual autonomy and creativity to achieve psychological health.

- **AGPA President-Elect, Connie Concannon, M.S.W., CGP, FAGPA**, Founder and Co-Director of the Oasis Center, Inc. and Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco will deliver her Presidential Address. In “The Mystery and the Magic of the Group: What Happens Here that Happens No Where Else?” Ms. Concannon will explore the collective wisdom that develops in groups that can be transformative for individuals and organizations.
- **The Group Psychotherapy Foundation** will sponsor a luncheon on Saturday, February 23 featuring a performance by Capitol Steps, the renowned political satire 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 healing in today’s world. For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 477-2677 or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of the AGPA 2008 Annual Meeting. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 212.477.2677.

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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