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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION TO AWARD DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP TO ARIADNE P. BECK, MA, CGP, LFAGPA AND NINA D. FIELDSTEEL, PH.D., LFAGPA IN CHICAGO, IL FEBRUARY 20, 2009

NEW YORK, Feb. 16, 2009— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced that Ariadne P. Beck, MA, CGP, LFAGPA and Nina D. Fieldsteel, Ph.D., LFAGPA will be awarded Distinguished Fellowship in the Association at its upcoming meeting in Chicago, IL, February 16-21 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers. The award presentation will take place during the Anne & Ramon Alonso Plenary Address, Friday, February 20 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.

“The Distinguished Fellowship designation recognizes those who are seminal leaders, thinkers, clinicians and researchers in the field of group psychotherapy,” said Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “Drs. Beck and Fieldsteel with their bodies of work and leadership in the field are highly deserving of this honor.”

Dr. Beck is a noted researcher and teacher with a focus in the area of group process, has authored a book and 12 book chapters, and has led a research team focusing on group psychotherapy and group process for three decades, producing some of the field’s most integral research, validating aspects of group process and group leadership. She is currently Principal and Senior Consultant for SAGE – Consultants in Organizational Change, Coordinator of the Chicago Group Development Research Team and a frequent lecturer, clinical supervisor, research consultant and author.

Dr. Fieldsteel has been an active volunteer with the organization, including serving as Secretary. She has also served in a leadership capacity in the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society, including as Founding Editor of *Group*, the Society’s scientific Journal. She is a frequent presenter and author on group psychotherapy, with noted expertise in the area of ethics. Dr. Fieldsteel is Faculty and Supervisor at the Center for Psychoanalytic Studies at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School’s Department of Psychiatry as well as on the faculty of the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy.

This award presentation is a highlight of the AGPA's 2009 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, 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. For more information, contact AGPA at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media are invited to attend other select sessions of the AGPA 2009 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 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.