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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF CERTIFIED GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPISTS PRESENTS 2009 AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY TO ROBERT H. KLEIN, PH.D., ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA

NEW YORK, February 17, 2009 — The National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists will be presenting the 2009 Award for Outstanding Contributions in Education and Training in the Field of Group Psychotherapy to Robert H. Klein, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA. The presentation will take place at the AGPA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL February 16-21 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers during the Membership Community Meeting on Thursday, February 19. This award was established in 2001 and is given annually to an individual or organization whose work in group training and/or education contributes to excellence in the practice of group psychotherapy.

Dr. Klein has given over 200 lectures and presentations, for more than 40 years, nationally in the United States and internationally in locations such as Mexico, Israel, and The Soviet Union on a range of topics including his particular areas of expertise: group interventions for trauma and terminations in group. Of even more import for the field, Dr. Klein is noted for developing training programs for group psychotherapy in Universities and Medical Schools, insuring adequate training in this specialized mode of care for those entering the mental health professions. Dr. Klein is also an innovator in delivery methods, as he is part of a team spearheading AGPA's recent distance based trainings and consultations to clinicians in China and India who are assisting victims of the earthquakes and terrorist attacks,

“Dr. Robert Klein is an exceptional teacher and warm and generous individual who personifies this award” said Sherrie L. Smith, CSW-R, CGP, FAGPA, NRCGP Chairwoman. “His work has had an impact on innumerable trainees and practitioners, benefitting the profession and the public.”

Past recipients of the award are as follows:

2008 Center for Group Studies in New York City

2007 Walter Stone, M.D., CGP, DFAGPA and One-Year Training Program in Group Psychotherapy of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society

2006 Marvin Aronson, PhD, CGP FAGPA

2005 Wendi Cross, Ph.D., CGP and Saul Scheidlinger, Ph.D., CGP, DLFAGPA

2004 K. Roy MacKenzie, M.D., FRCP, CGP, DFAGPA

2003 Gary Burlingame, Ph.D., CGP

2002 Henry Spitz, M.D., CGP, FAGPA

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.

About the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists

The National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists is a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary credentialing body has certified over 1,500 clinicians, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, clinical mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists who are recognized as group specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential.

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 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.

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