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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA CONNECT ANNUAL GROUP-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS TRAINING TO BE HELD IN HOUSTON, FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 3, 2018

NEW YORK, December 19, 2017— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is coming to Houston for its 2018 Annual Training, *AGPA Connect*, February 26 - March 3 at the Westin Galleria and Westin Oaks Houston. Entitled “The Healing Power of Groups in a Fragmented World,” 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, a valuable modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. The theme reflects the meeting’s emphasis on the power of groups to connect individuals, families and communities in meaningful ways to effect change on personal and societal levels.

“*AGPA Connect* is the source for experiential training in leading therapeutic groups,” said Eleanor Counselman, Ed.D, CGP, LFAGPA, AGPA President. “This Meeting is a one-of-a-kind educational opportunity to learn group skills in an innovative format that blends learning with self-care and rejuvenation.”

The meeting will include over 200 programming events over six days; highlights include:

- Two Special Institutes will be offered this year on Monday, February 26, providing experiential learning in a large group. “**The Technique of Mentalization-Based Treatment for Severe Personality Disorder**” with Peter Fonagy, Ph.D. and “**Maintaining Passion in your Group Work: The Role of the Training Group**” with Elliot Zeisel, Ph.D., LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA.
- Elizabeth Knight, MSW, CGP, DFAGPA, will deliver the Institute Opening Address on Tuesday, February 27 “**I’m Having Trouble with My Small Group: Reflections on a Lifetime of Living, Leading, and Learning in Groups.**”
- David Allen, MD, Ph.D., will present the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event, Wednesday, February 28, entitled “**Group Process as an Intervention for Community Resocialization.**”
- Pat Ogden, Ph.D. is presenting the Conference Opening Plenary on Thursday, March 1, entitled “**The Role of the Body in Group Psychotherapy: A Sensorimotor Psychotherapy Approach.**”

- **Barry Helfmann, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, DFAGPA** will deliver the Annual Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary Address, Friday, March 2 entitled, **“Why AGPA?”**
- **Richard Billow, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP** will deliver the Louis R. Ormont Lecture on Saturday, March 3, **“Witnessing: The Third Axis of Group Process.”**

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 and communities in today’s world. 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 **AGPA Connect 2018**. 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 Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has approximately 2,500 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 21 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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