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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGPA CONNECT ANNUAL GROUP-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS TRAINING  
TO BE HELD IN LOS ANGELES, FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 2, 2019

NEW YORK, November 7, 2018— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is coming to Los Angeles for its 2019 Annual Training, *AGPA Connect*, February 25 – March 2, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles, California. Entitled “Building Bridges of Connection through Group,” 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 annual training 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 25, providing experiential learning in a large group. “**Clinical Applications of Attachment and Interpersonal Theories to Group Psychotherapy: Two Sides of the Same Coin**” with Cheri Marmarosh, Ph.D. & Martyn Whittingham, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA and “**Polarization in Intimate Life and Civic Life**” with William Doherty, Ph.D.
- Susan Gantt, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, DFAGPA, will deliver the Institute Opening Address on Tuesday, February 26 “**Seeing Ourselves and Our Groups as Living Human Systems: How Systems-Centered Groups Develop our Minds and Transform our Brains.**”
- Marco Iacoboni, MD., Ph.D., will present the Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event, Wednesday, February 27, entitled “**Like a Thought That is Also a Feeling: The Betweenness of Empathy.**”
- Allan Schore, Ph.D. is presenting the Conference Opening Plenary on Thursday, February 28, entitled “**Forging Connections in Group Psychotherapy Through Right Brain to Right Emotional Communications.**”
- Joyce Slochower, Ph.D., will deliver the annual Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary Address, Friday, March 1 entitled, “**Trying Not to Look Ahead.**”

- **Karen J. Maroda, Ph.D., ABPP** will deliver the Louis R. Ormont Lecture on Saturday, March 2, "Countertransference, The Observing Ego, and Generative Communication: Ormont's Prescient Contributions to Contemporary Analysis."

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of **AGPA Connect 2019**. To register, please send an e-mail request to [dfairman@agpa.org](mailto:dfairman@agpa.org) or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

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## 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 2,000 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 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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