



AMERICAN GROUP  
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION  
GROUP FOUNDATION  
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH  
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR  
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP  
PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES GROUP THERAPY  
TRAINING SUPPORT FOR CLINICIANS AND CHAPLAINS WORKING WITH  
ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERANS

**NEW YORK, December 6, 2018**— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) welcomes all clinicians and chaplains working with active military and veterans to **AGPA Connect 2019** in Los Angeles, its annual training week in Los Angeles, entitled “Building Bridges of Connection through Group.” In recognition of the care and service such individuals have been providing to the men and women who have served, current and past, in missions throughout the world, AGPA is offering a 35% registration discount for this conference as well as opportunities for tuition support through the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, the organization’s philanthropic arm.

“Groups have a long history of successfully working with active troops and veteran populations, dating back to World War II,” said Eleanor Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, L FAGPA, AGPA President. “We are privileged to be able to provide this training and support at **AGPA Connect** to those who are helping the men and women of the U.S. military, veterans and their families.”

There are a variety of educational opportunities on the **AGPA Connect** program with relevance for military personnel and veterans’ hospital and agency staff, including:

- **“Using Group and Personal Process to Explore Generational Social Trauma”** – a two-day institute with Elaine Jean Cooper, PhD, MSW, CGP, DFAGPA.
- **“Stories We Carry: Exploring the Impact of Trauma and Loss on the Clinician and the Group”** – an open session with Mary Krueger, MEd, LCPC, CGP, FAGPA, Catherine Brennan, MD, Paige LaCava, MA, LCPC, CGP and Shira Marin, PhD.
- **“Processes in Trauma-Informed Present-Oriented Group Treatment”** – a workshop with Daniel Gross, MSW and Melissa Wattenberg, PhD.
- **“You Can See me Lost, You Can See Me Found: Addiction, Trauma, and Resilience”** – a workshop with Marcia Nickow, PsyD, CADC, CGP and Deborah Schwartz, MD, FAGPA.
- **“A Cultural Bridge for Leaders of Groups for Active and Former Military: Need for Training in Military Cultural Competency”** – an open session with Nina Brown, EdD, LPC, NCC, FAGPA, Christina La Croix, BA, Helene Saltz, PsyD, ABPP, CGP and Joe Wise, MD, CGP.

- “Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk in Group Therapy: Ethical and Clinical Considerations” – a workshop with Erica Lennon, PsyD and Rebecca MacNair-Semands, PhD, CGP, FAGPA.
- “Dissociation and Complex Trauma in Members and Leaders: Psychodynamic Theory and Group Interventions” – a workshop with Leonardo Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA.

AGPA Connect 2019 attracts over 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. 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 [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@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.

### *About the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health*

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization dedicated to changing lives through therapeutic group work by advancing the most effective and innovative approaches to group therapy education, training, research and community outreach. Among the Foundation’s most vital roles is the recognition of excellence, promise, and vision by honoring those individuals and groups who have demonstrated these qualities with grants, awards and scholarships.

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