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

NEW YORK, December 16, 2019— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) welcomes all clinicians and chaplains working with active military and veterans to AGPA Connect 2020 in New York, its annual training week, entitled “Group: Growth and Renewal.” 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, DLFAGPA, 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:

- “Rehumanization of Military Veterans Through Shakespeare: A Performance and Discussion” – an open session with Craig Haen, PhD, LCAT, CGP, FAGPA, Alisha Ali, PhD, Nina Thomas, PhD, ABPP, CGP, and Stephan Wolfert, MFA.
- “Developing Post-Traumatic Growth and Resilience Through Experiential Groups” – a workshop with Renae Mendez, LCSW.
- “Working with the Military: Developing Cultural Competence” – a workshop with Helene Satz, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA.
- “Groups as Cultures of Resilience: A Psychodynamically Oriented Treatment Approach for Addiction and Trauma” – a workshop with Marcia Nickow, PsyD, CADC, CGP and Deborah Schwartz, MD, CGP, FAGPA.
- “Renewing Attention to the Here-and-Now: Present-Centered and Wellness Group Treatments for PTSD” – a workshop with Barbara Niles, PhD, Daniel Gross, MSW, DeAnna Mori, PhD, William Unger, PhD, and Melissa Wattenberg, PhD.
• “Stories We Carry: An Exploration of the Impact of Trauma Stories on the Clinician and the Group” – an open session with Mary Krueger, MSED, LCPC, CGP, FAGPA, Catherine Brennan, MD, Paige LaCava, MA, LCPC, CGP, and Shira Marin, PhD.

• “‘I Said NO’: Empowerment Self-Defense and Healing from Trauma” – a workshop with Anne Miller-Uueda, MSS, LCSW.

AGPA Connect 2020 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 effect change in meaningful ways on personal and societal levels.

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 2020. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfeirman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA and the Group Foundation

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tripartite 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. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as mental health, family, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. 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. The association also has 21 local and regional societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sex, age, or disability. Central to our mission is a belief in the power of groups to treat mental illness, heal the scars from traumatic events, and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their families, schools, corporate settings, and communities.

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization that is committed to the fact that “Groups Change Lives” and believes in the power of group interventions to improve people’s quality of life. The Group Foundation supports group psychotherapy education, research, training, and information dissemination for the benefit of the public and professional communities. 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 awards and scholarships.

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