



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH LUNCHEON IN LOS ANGELES CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS MARCH 2, 2019

NEW YORK, March 1, 2019— During AGPA Connect this week in Los Angeles, February 25 - March 2, 2019, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, the philanthropic arm of the AGPA, will once again sponsor a luncheon honoring scholarship and award winners, as well as the generous contributors who make the program possible. A myriad of tuition, travel and monetary awards, supporting the training of group therapists and the use of group in communities to effect change, are distributed through the Foundation.

Award recipients being honored include:

- **The Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Therapy will be presented to Bonnie Buchele, PhD, ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA for her editorship of the special issue of *Psychoanalytic Inquiry* “Today’s Bridge Between Psychoanalysis and the Group World.”**
- **Teen Line of Los Angeles is receiving the Aaron Stein Memorial Award.**
- **Over 160 individuals have received scholarships to attend the meeting, supported through endowed scholarship funds and private donations.**

“The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is privileged to honor those whose use of groups in clinical and community settings helps people in need,” said Karen S. Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA, Chairwoman of the Board. “This luncheon is also our opportunity to publicly thank our donors, whose generous contributions make it possible for us to carry out our mission.”

This luncheon is a highlight of AGPA Connect 2019 in Los Angeles. The theme “Building Bridges of Connection Through Group” 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 annually attracts almost 1,000 group therapists, researchers and scientists from around the world, of all disciplines, as they gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. 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 the AGPA Connect 2019. 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 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. 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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