



Spring 2017

# groupcircle

## Learning from Teaching in Egypt

**Judith Coché, PhD, ABPP, CGP, L FAGPA**

I recently returned from a remarkable sharing of cultures and work experiences with about 100 esteemed Egyptian colleagues from Cairo, Alexandria, and surrounding areas. With the guidance of Dr. Mona Rakhawy and her colleagues at the Egyptian Association of Group Therapy (EAGT), I was invited to train 75 colleagues in couples and group therapy in a workshop sponsored by EAGT; to teach about 30 residents and senior faculty about group therapy at a major addictions treatment center in Cairo; and to give three informal talks on positive psychology at three locations of a popular bookstore chain in Cairo and Alexandria. It was a bit like going “back to the future” in the sense that I was more immersed in international training earlier in my career, and it was exciting to do it again.

I trained 55-75 colleagues for 18 hours over three days, using both video and simultaneous translation to insure clarity of understanding. Of course, many workshop participants spoke English, and some had been trained at the American University of Cairo, so they were quick to understand, enabling deeper learning.

I combined Power Point presentations with audience questions, role-playing, visual imagery, and the construction of a mock couples group that spoke Arabic while I led in English. Little by little, as we came to understand each other deeply, the enthusiasm of the audience became palpable. The mental health professionals were eager to learn how to help the high percentage of couples who are considering divorce. Some, who were trained as marriage counselors, were interested in learning basic communication skills to teach couples. Others, who were senior level academic and clinical psychiatrists and psychologists, were more interested in learning how to work with couples in groups. I felt I could offer them several alternatives to meet their diverse needs. There was clearly a strong common desire to provide service to clients needing help, which overcame any barriers to effective communication, and we all learned from each other in this spirit.

The level of knowledge about group therapy in Egypt is both global and technical. The global focus encompasses their vision that to live better lives, we must all learn from each other. This was clearly demonstrated during AGPA’s 2017 75th Anniversary Meeting in March, when Professor Mona Rakhawy, Principal at



the Diwan Psychotherapy Center, presented a visionary video, *The Paradox of Polarity and The Power of Complementarity, Connection and Integration*. Seeming polarities need to be addressed through a vision of connectedness that emphasizes that seemingly different ideas are, in fact, to some extent connected. Differences between peoples, varying treatment philosophies, and gender are all united through a fundamental need to work through the existential dilemma that seems to separate us from other world views. We endanger our vision of working together when we polarize our views. It is necessary for us to take on the real and more difficult challenge of embracing differences to find the underlying connectedness and commonality of needs. Group therapy, family therapy, and group concepts enable us to benefit from this way of finding meaning in our world.

A highlight of my workshop occurred during days two and three, when attendees role-played a couples therapy group. They selected a familiar theme for couples in Egypt: The husband had become disenchanted and distanced in his marriage, was considering or had already taken on another lover, and wanted to create a workable and happy marriage rather than admit failure; the wife was enraged at his intention to be unfaithful, and felt helpless to intervene effectively. As I heard the couples struggle with this problem, I became aware that they blamed each other rather than used their individual resources to change their own behavior. As I suggested this repeatedly to one couple after another, I could sense readiness to change: It was as though the couples were eager for a better solution. Although three days together provided far too little time to hope for deep change, I felt enthusiastic that the professionals at the workshop

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from the  
president

**Eleanor Counselman, EdD, CGP, L FAGPA**

At the opening of the 2017 Annual Meeting, I was pleased to welcome our many first-time attendees. I then said, “Welcome home!” to everyone else. I meant that. AGPA is a professional home for many of us. Home can mean “a family group” or “a safe place.” As in any family group, along with attachment come disagreements and occasional injuries. However, my experience when this occurs—this year being no exception—is the existence of a strong commitment within AGPA to talking things through. We are an organization committed to process. It is what we teach *and* what we do.

The past 75 years have included enormous social changes. When I read the history of AGPA over its 75 years, I am impressed with how we have continued to adapt to outside forces and events. Its early leaders were all white males, mostly psychiatrists. Then leadership changed to include psychologists, social workers, as well as other disciplines, then women, gays, and now we are working hard to have a more multicultural organizational leadership and membership. At the New Members Breakfast during the Annual Meeting, I noticed that everyone at my table was a person of color.

I want AGPA to feel like a safe place for everyone. Our organizational values include integrity and respect for each other. Prior to this year’s Annual Meeting, all faculty, board, and staff were asked to participate in diversity training. The Board and Annual Meeting Committee will be looking at ways to continue and heighten sensitivity to difference so that no one feels injured or marginalized for any reason.

And speaking of the Annual Meeting, it was fabulous! There was the usual rich array of educational offerings; Institute enrollment was at a record level; the well-attended Friday night dance included a live band followed by a DJ until 2 a.m. (at least so I am told). And oh, that Saturday luncheon skit— what talent we have in our midst! I cannot resist quoting a few lines from Past

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**Steve Van Wagoner, PhD, CGP, FAGPA**

It seems like ages ago that the 2017 Annual Meeting took place, and yet so many memories remain fresh in my mind, from the launching of our 75th Anniversary celebration to the meeting of old friends, the making of new friends, and the stellar array of educational opportunities. Because of our unique integration of both cognitive and emotional learning, and group therapists being who we are, the week can be emotionally and intellectually stimulating, compelling, sometimes anxiety producing, exhausting, and invigorating. By the end of the week, I felt ready to leave, satiated by the many terrific workshops, meetings, and yes, rich and enticing New York City restaurants. Yet a few days after returning home, I found myself missing the experience and wishing to do it over again.

It was gratifying reading President Eleanor Counselman's, EdD, CGP, LFAGPA, column, as the many memories she shared about the Annual Meeting reminded me of all that was so important about that week. The new members always seems to be one of the highlights, and so many of them depend on the generosity of the membership who give money every year to the many scholarship funds offered to defray costs of attending, including the general scholarship fund, as well as the more specific scholarships.

In this issue, Judith Coché, PhD, ABPP, CGP, LFAGPA, tells us about the challenges and rewards of training therapists from another culture in couples and group psychotherapy. It is refreshing to read a report about a culture and people through the eyes of a group therapist rather than a journalist as Dr. Coché connected with the myriad attendees at several training events organized by her and her hosts. And if that is not enough, seeing Judith on a camel is a quite a sight!

We also welcome the new AGPA Fellows recognized for their special gifts and accomplishments in group therapy. It's always a privilege to read about what others are doing to contribute to our field, and the Fellows article and the Member News column gives us just such a view.

It was great to hear from many of you about the new design of the *Group Circle*, which we rolled out for AGPA's 75th Anniversary. We have received a number of Letters to the Editor, in response to the new design; two are printed here. Thank you for sharing your reactions and thoughts, which are most welcome. While the appearance might be a little flashier, we strive to put substance over form when it comes to the articles and columns published. I always want to hear from you about any reactions you might have to the newsletter, specific articles, or issues important to you. In addition, anyone can contribute to the Member News, whether you want to share about something you are doing in the field, or about a colleague or friend.

Sadly, we include a Memorial tribute to Cecil Rice, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA, from his friends and colleagues Scott Rutan, PhD, CGP-R, DFAGPA, and Eleanor Counselman. Cecil, who contributed enormously to our field and to AGPA, exemplified humanity and resilience even in the face of adversity.

Finally, it is again with sadness, but also with great warmth, appreciation, and admiration that we bid farewell to Michael Hegener, MA, LPC, CGP, FAGPA, as Editor extraordinaire of the *Consultation, Please* column. Michael has edited the column since 2003, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him as he has presented interesting clinical dilemmas and tirelessly sought consultative responses from other members. He was a terrific support to me when I joined the *Group Circle* as Editor seven years ago. Michael, you will be missed. I hope we can occasionally call upon you, this time as a consultant. Anyone interested in this position should contact me at [slwagoner@verizon.net](mailto:slwagoner@verizon.net).

letters **TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor:

I wanted to briefly comment on the newly designed **Group Circle**. I think it looks great. I really like seeing pictures of people being acknowledged for their contributions to the field of group psychotherapy or to AGPA. Having a face (in color no less) to go with what's in writing helps bring life to the words, and feels much more related. I think that will motivate more people to read the **Group Circle** as it appears to be more reader friendly.

**Scott Fehr, PsyD, CGP - Hollywood, Florida**

Dear Editor:

I very much appreciate the new layout of the **Group Circle**. It is visually more interesting, and the color photos certainly add to my sense of connectedness to AGPA members and their activities.

Is there any thought being given to sending the **Group Circle** online versus a hard copy for those who might like that format? (Editor's Note: Annually at dues renewal time, the invoice asks members if they would like an online only copy of the **Group Circle**.) Also, if practical, could there be an announcement in the prior issue as to the interviewee and members encouraged to send questions by a set date?

I appreciated the chance to review this issue. I would like to see a Letters to the Editor feature in each edition.

**Miriam Iosupovici, MSW LMFT - Imperial Beach, California**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Continued from page 1

President Connie Concannon's hilarious interview of our CEO Marsha Block, CAE, CFRE.

CC: So Marsha, do you have any plans to retire?

**MB: I thought I'd take a lesson from my group therapist friends and die at my desk. Or maybe I'll run for public office.**

CC: Do you have any thoughts about who should replace you as CEO?

**MB: Well, I hear Hilary Clinton is available.**

CC: Hasn't she suffered enough?

The 75th Anniversary was in evidence all week with historical and happy birthday AGPA videos playing in the registration area, our new 75th Anniversary logo on all paperwork and the Annual Meeting app, and a commemorative poster that is still available in the AGPA online store. For me, the anniversary celebration was a meaningful blend of past, present, and future.

The past was well represented by several historical videos and by two awards. Irvin Yalom, MD, DLFAGPA, received our first Lifetime Achievement Award. This giant in the field of group psychotherapy is still writing and thinking about group therapy and is preparing to write a 6th edition of his classic book *The Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy* in collaboration with Molyn Leszcz, MD, CGP, DFAGPA. In addition, Norman Neiberg, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA, a Past President, was honored with the Harold S. Bernard Training Award for over 60 years of serving on the AGPA faculty. In accepting his award, Dr. Neiberg shared his belief that compassion and truly caring for the patient are the center of good psychotherapy and overshadow allegiance to any particular model.

The present was, of course, the chance to be with so many good friends in the midst of intense learning experiences, while the future was the presence of so many new members. I loved attending both the New Member Dinner and Breakfast and meeting the young

people who are the future of our organization. Our robust Scholarship Program is fundamental to bringing these folks in; more than 200 scholarships were awarded this year. Mark your calendars for the 2018 Annual Meeting in Houston, February 26 through March 3, and please continue to support the Scholarship Program.

Governance meetings were held the weekend before the Annual Meeting. The Strategic Plan was reviewed; goals achieved were noted; and any that no longer seem relevant were eliminated. Two important initiatives are in process. The Group Specialty Petition was submitted to the American Psychological Association and was subsequently posted for a 60-day public comment period. I am pleased to report that the petition received well over 100 comments! Thank you to all who posted comments. We have received a response from APA and have been asked to provide more information about group specialty training at the post-licensure level. Although this is not the acceptance we had hoped for, it is encouraging and we will get to work (again). We hope to create similar specialty initiatives in other disciplines. The other project is the Agency Survey, which will help us better understand the group therapy training needs of agencies. A preliminary draft is now under review.

This year's successful Annual Meeting and 75th Anniversary celebration was the work of many, many people. The Annual Meeting Co-Chairs and their Committee, the faculty, and the 75th Anniversary Task Force and their members all deserve our great appreciation. However, I'd like to give special recognition to the AGPA staff for their hard work not only during the meeting week but also during the weeks in advance. Navigating some staff turnover made for extra challenges, and these professional women shouldered a lot. A big thank you to all!

As always, I welcome comments about this column and anything else. [EleanorF@Counselman.com](mailto:EleanorF@Counselman.com).

**groupcircle**

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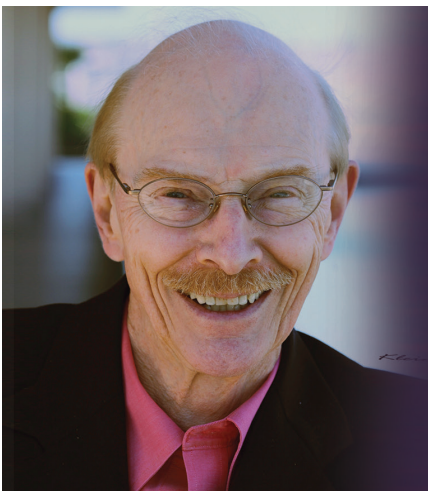
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# IN MEMORIAM

CECIL RICE, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Cecil Rice, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA, was a co-founder of the Boston Threshold Group (Northern Ireland Group Psychotherapy Conference) and co-founded The Boston Institute for Psychotherapy. He taught at Harvard Medical School and had a private practice in Needham, Massachusetts. He has written widely in the field of group psychotherapy, and has been studying and writing about the effects of Northern Ireland's 30 years of civic strife on therapy groups, their members and leaders. Dr. Rice served as the Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy* from 2003-2013.

On Friday, May 5, Cecil Rice died peacefully at his home. Cecil had known his death was coming from the cancer he fought but could not defeat, and like so much in his life, he accepted it without anger or self-pity. He was known for his wisdom, kindness, and humor. The latter two are all the more amazing given the traumas he and his wife Shirley endured throughout their lives.

As a small child, Cecil endured the bombing of his hometown, Belfast, during WWII. He reported that he referred to the Germans who bombed him as "germs," so that he "could hate them." Later, he lived through The Troubles in Northern Ireland, where neighbors killed neighbors.

In 1963, Cecil and Shirley, and their two-year-old daughter boarded a tramp steamer and spent 10 rough days at sea immigrating to America. Cecil said that interacting with the small and very diverse group of passengers on that ship was "my first group experience." Cecil came to America to get his PhD at Boston University School of Theology; that doctoral program exposed him to group therapy, which became his lifelong passion.

Though he lived in America most of his life, his lilting Irish accent never left him. Indeed, after one of his teaching sessions, a foreign-born student (for whom English was her second language) turned to a colleague and said, "I know what he's saying is brilliant, but my English isn't good enough to understand him." Her colleague replied, "I'm a native born American and I can't understand him either. But, you are right, he's brilliant!"

Coming to America did not end his trauma; they became even more personal, as his only daughter and only two grandchildren were murdered. Rather than living a life of anger and blaming, which he had every right to do, Cecil turned his professional life to helping others deal with trauma. Somehow he remained loving, optimistic, and giving. In the face of all that he suffered, all who knew him experienced him as a truly remarkable man whose inspiration of others will surely outlive him.

Across numerous decades, Cecil made many significant contributions to AGPA, the field of group psychotherapy, and to a great many of us individually. He will be greatly missed.

J. Scott Rutan, PhD, CGP-R, DLAGPA

Cecil Rice came from Belfast, Northern Ireland to study at the Boston University School of Theology, where he received his PhD in pastoral counseling. Subsequently, he worked in both inpatient and outpatient mental health settings and was on the clinical faculty of Harvard Medical School for many years leading T-groups for psychiatry residents. He was an active member of the Northeastern Society of Group Psychotherapy (NSGP) to the end of his life, serving in many roles including President. He was a much sought-after supervisor and teacher.

Cecil was also an active member in AGPA, serving on the Board, as Co-Chair of many committees, as Co-Chair of the Institute, and as Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*. He was

named a Distinguished Fellow in 2011. He was an accomplished author with more than 35 publications, writing about a wide range of topics including inpatient and community mental health, group therapy practice and training, and the effects of community trauma. In addition, he was a Principal in the Boston Threshold Group, which received the 2012 AGPA Social Responsibility Award for its training conferences in Northern Ireland.

Like many brilliant-minded individuals, he had a delightful absent-minded side. One time, a group of Boston therapists, including Cecil, were traveling to AGPA and got stuck in an airport due to bad weather. To pass the time, they decided to play poker. They had cards but no poker chips, so they decided to use pretzels for chips. This worked fine for everyone except Cecil who forgot and ate all his pretzels.

In 2014, Cecil gave the AGPA Institute Plenary address—*Sailing into the Unknown*—in which he spoke of his voyage from Northern Ireland across the Atlantic to America, likening it to the Institute experience of sailing into the unknown with strangers. He spoke of "our human need for connection and for belonging. We want to reach out and touch someone and we want to belong to a group of others."

When I think of Cecil, I think of connection. He has spoken of an early memory of watching bombs being dropped in Belfast and would always say "But I was not scared because my father was holding me in his arms." When his daughter and grandsons were murdered, he turned to his strong connection with friends and community and let them hold him. He never wavered from his belief in the healing power of connection, regardless of whether he was doing the holding or being held. He was an extraordinary man of great integrity, strength, wisdom, humor, and warmth. He has touched many lives and will be greatly missed.

Contributions in Cecil's memory may be made online to the NSGP Foundation ([www.nsgpf.org](http://www.nsgpf.org)) or by check, which can be mailed to Oona Metz, 1318 Beacon St., Suite 9, Brookline, MA 02446.

Eleanor Counselman, EdD, CGP, LAGPA

## LEARNING FROM TEACHING IN EGYPT

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had sufficient motivation to pursue further training for advanced work with couples needing help.

The class I taught at the Cairo Center for Addiction, founded by Dr. Yehia Rakhawy, was also a delight: friendly, largely bilingual trainees and faculty gathered and participated with gusto in role-playing and multi-level learning about the expertise of the group psychotherapist. Time flew as we discovered compatible ways of conceptualizing work with groups of residential patients.

I approached the bookstore talks with some trepidation. Would people show up? Would they speak English? Would

they have interest in academic positive psychology? The answer to all three questions was a resounding "yes!" More than 65 adults of all ages turned up to discuss how to have deeper happiness in 2017. They asked discerning questions and contributed their own experiences to the talk, which created an international forum for all in attendance. A major Cairo newspaper covered the event, effectively bringing mental health research to the public.

If all this professional stimulation were not enough, add the dimension that I was personally escorted to some remarkable wonders of our world that Egypt, with its rich history and visually compelling landscape offers all who live there or visit. From my camel ride around the

pyramids and the Sphinx to the midnight stroll among the brightly lit shops of old Cairo, to the Roman ruins that greeted me in the exquisite city of Alexandria, to the gala thrown in my honor, the warmth and good humor of my Egyptian colleagues created an unforgettable training experience.

I returned to the United States much wiser. I learned from my Egyptian colleagues how to receive a peer with warmth, entertain her, enrich her career by offering assistance in international mental health training, and send her home delighted that she had come. To all my EAGT colleagues, a sincere thanks for an unforgettable experience. 🙏



Practice Matters is a column written jointly by the Public Affairs and Practice Development Committees. Its purpose is to keep AGPA members informed about AGPA's activities on behalf of the practice of group therapy.

**Farooq Mohyuddin, MD, CGP**

## GROUP THERAPY AS A SPECIALTY

AGPA has continued its efforts to get group therapy recognized as a specialty by the American Psychological Association (APA). In May 2015, APA rejected AGPA's petition. Undeterred by this, the Group Specialty Council, which includes members from AGPA, APA, and the American Board of Group Psychotherapy, (part of the American Board of Professional Psychology), has again submitted a Group Specialty Petition addressing the issues raised in the first review. AGPA members from multiple disciplines submitted supporting comments to APA. The Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology met in March. APA subsequently asked for additional information about group specialty training at the post-licensure level.

The approval of this petition would be significant for AGPA membership since the establishment of group psychotherapy as a specialty might lead other disciplines to recognize group therapy as a specialty. This would help elevate the importance of training and research in group therapy across mental health disciplines. Stay tuned for updates on the next phase of this petition process.



## 2016 LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

AGPA's Public Affairs Committee continues to advocate at the federal level on behalf of our members and their patients on issues pertinent to group therapists, including access to mental health services. AGPA, in affiliation with other national organizations, supported the following legislative initiatives in 2016.

1. Mental Health Awareness Semipostal Stamp Act (H.R. 3640), which recognized the importance of advancing neuroscience research, reducing stigma, and preventing suicide for individuals with mental illness, including substance use disorders.
2. Legislation to expand the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center demonstration program authorized in Section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act based on the Excellence in Mental Health Act. The legislation expands the two-year demonstration project to 24 states to help increase access to critical behavioral health services for thousands of people, including active duty military personnel, veterans, and their families.
3. The Mental Health Reform Act of 2016, a bipartisan effort authorizing legislation for a wide array of critically important initiatives targeting mental health services and jail diversion programs.

Last year also saw the approval of the first major mental health legislation in nearly a decade—the 21st Century Cures Act, a bipartisan legislation that included significant improvements in the provision of mental health to millions of Americans.

AGPA's Public Affairs Committee continues to monitor the changing landscape of healthcare in the country. The Public Affairs Committee has promoted grass roots activism by encouraging members to call congressional members when legislation that impacts the mental health of Americans is being considered for a vote. We thank our members for responding to the call for action, as we continue to advocate for our patients. 🙏

## Why Should I Be a CGP?

**Tony Sheppard, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA**

**Chair, International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists**

At the recent AGPA 75th Anniversary Meeting in New York, I had the honor of speaking to a number of groups about the Certified Group Psychotherapist (CGP) designation. Interacting with Conference attendees always reminds me of how proud I am to be a CGP and to be a part of the ongoing work of the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists (IBCGP). When I was invited to write an article about the CGP for the *Group Circle*, I jumped at the chance to say more about the pride and excitement I feel as a CGP.

So, why should you be a Certified Group Psychotherapist? Being awarded the CGP communicates that you have attained a level of training, group leadership, and consultation that is consistent with AGPA's recognized standards. It also represents a commitment to keep your training current by earning CE credits in group psychotherapy. You do this every time you attend an AGPA workshop, institute, course, or colloquia at the Annual Meeting, by participating in AGPA's distance learning program, or by taking a course offered by an Affiliate Society. Having a CGP ensures your clients, trainees, supervisees, and the public that you are a well-trained professional who utilizes the latest interventions and most sound theoretical foundations in your group work.

Holding the CGP represents your commitment to the field of group psychotherapy. AGPA and

IBCGP are tirelessly working to preserve the integrity of the work we value so much. We believe that group psychotherapy is much more than a mere service delivery modality. It is a specialized form of psychotherapy, which relies on the latest research and developments in group dynamics and process, and which requires the training, experience, and consultation set forth in the CGP standards. Becoming a CGP means that you join the movement to protect the integrity of our work.

As an individual clinician in private practice, I find the CGP valuable with regard to marketing myself. I've often used the example of a Google search of therapists in my zip code. There are several hundred! Having Certified Group Psychotherapist after my name helps to set me apart from the pack. I've included it on all my marketing materials, including business cards, brochures, and website. As a psychologist doing group therapy, my CGP helps me to stand out in the eyes of potential clients.

There are some fairly recent perks that have been added to the AGPA website for members with CGPs. We now get an enhanced listing under the *Find a Certified Group Therapist* tab on the homepage of the website! This impressive and very robust listing means that CGPs are searchable to anyone visiting AGPA's website. As an example of this feature, I invite you to view my profile. You can search using my last name.



On a related note, AGPA Connect (the new name of our Annual Meeting) faculty who are CGPs now have a hyperlink to their CGP profile in their online listing in the Annual Meeting program. As people read workshop descriptions, they are able to click on your name and view your CGP profile!

If you're already a CGP, I hope this article inspires you to get the most out of your certification. Highlight it in your marketing, educate people about what it means, and complete your online profile.

If you're not a CGP yet, I encourage you to complete your application today. For more information, visit the *CGP Certification* tab on the AGPA website. If you'd like to be matched with a CGP Advisor, contact Leah Flood, Membership and Credentials Director at [leahflood@agpa.org](mailto:leahflood@agpa.org). Your advisor can help answer questions and guide you through the application process. I look forward to welcoming you as a new CGP! 🙏



# Congratulations New Fellows

*Editor's note: AGPA annually recognizes outstanding professional competence and leadership in the field of group psychotherapy.*

**Jay Erwin-Grotsky, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA (Austin, TX)**, an AGPA Member since 1990 and a Clinical Member since 2006, was on the Austin Group Psychotherapy Society (AGPS) Board of Directors and served as its President. He is on the Austin Group Foundation Scholarship Committee and the AGPA Affiliate Societies Assembly, where he was awarded the Affiliate Societies Award in 2015. A member of the AGPA and AGPS Institute Faculties, he has lead workshops on co-leadership and humor in groups. Mr. Erwin-Grotsky Co-Chaired AGPA's Co-Leadership Special Interest Group for four years. In private practice since 1992, he counsels individuals and couples dealing with relationship issues, sexual orientation, grief/loss, HIV/AIDS, childhood abuse, substance abuse, and spiritual and developmental issues. Mr. Erwin-Grotsky was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Santa Monica and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas School of Social Work, where he taught Masters level courses on Differential Diagnosis, use of DSM-IV-TR through the lens of Spiritual Psychology, Development across the Lifespan as related to Erikson's Developmental Stages, and Theories and Methods of Intervention. He is a Clinical Supervisor for LCSW licensure and a Field Instructor for Social Work Interns, University of Texas School of Social Work.



**Kurt White, LICSW, LADC, CGP, FAGPA (Brattleboro, VT)** has been a Clinical Member since 2010, the same year he became an AGPA Member. He is Co-Chair of the Mental Health Agency and Institutional Settings Special Interest Group and a member of the Joint Board. He was recently appointed to the Joint Agency Survey Task Force. Mr. White has delivered three workshops for AGPA and one workshop for the Northeastern Society of Group Psychotherapy (NSGP), where he also has trained faculty. He was involved in the Local Hosting Annual Meeting Task Force Marketing Subcommittee for the 2014 Boston AGPA Annual Meeting. He is Co-Editor of the NSGP *Newsletter* and Founder and Co-Chair of the NSGP Research Committee. Mr. White is an Adjunct Assistant Professor, at the Smith College School of Social Work in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he teaches group theory and practice. He is also an Adjunct Faculty member at Antioch University New England, and Director of Ambulatory Services at Brattleboro Retreat, where he is a Training Group Leader. There he serves as a therapist, the Manager of Intensive Outpatient and Partial Hospitalization Programs, and an Addiction Board Member. He previously taught at Albany Medical College, Albany, New York. Mr. White is President of the Vermont Association of Addiction Professionals and Treatment Providers, previously serving as its Treasurer. Mr. White has published in the *Schizophrenia Bulletin* in addition to delivering over 24 presentations in his various organizational involvements.



**Martyn Whittingham, PhD, CGP, FAGPA (West Chester, OH)** has been a Clinical Member since 2011, the same year he became an AGPA Member. He worked with other Executive Committee members to re-found the Tri-State Group Psychotherapy Society (GPS) in 2009. A Past President and a former Conference Chair, he is currently a member of the Tri-State GPS Executive Committee. Dr. Whittingham is also a member of the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, AGPA's Science to Service Task Force, the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, the Joint Agency Survey Task Force, and the APA Group Specialty Council Application Committee. Until recently, Dr. Whittingham was Chief, Clinical Integration and Research, Behavioral Health Institute, Mercy Health, Cincinnati, Ohio. He was an Associate Professor at Wright State University, School of Professional Psychology. While there, he developed his Focused Brief Group Therapy model, a semi-structured, integrative interpersonal brief group approach to treating interpersonal distress. He has researched the approach, and trained and supervised students in the model. Dr. Whittingham presented workshops on his model at the Tri-State GPS, AGPA and other conferences regionally, nationally and internationally, including for the Yalom Institute in Beijing, China. He has written seven book chapters, two journal articles, and four newsletter articles. Dr. Whittingham served on the Association for Specialists in Group Work's National Research Committee and as its Co-Chair. He was APA Division 49 (Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy) Student Chair and received the 2010 Group Practice Award from the Association for Specialists in Group Work.

**Lorraine Wodiska, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA (Arlington, VA)** has been an AGPA Member since 1987 and a Clinical Member since 1994. She is the incoming President of the Mid-Atlantic Group Psychotherapy Society (MAGPS) and was an At-Large Board Member. She has been on the AGPA Open Session Conference Committee, and is its current Co-Chair. She is also Chair of the MAGPS Conference Committee, has been on the MAGPS Conference Faculty, and was a Small Group Leader. She has presented workshops as Conference Faculty at the AGPA Annual Meeting. Dr. Wodiska has led short-term drug treatment groups and a dual diagnosis group, a long-term process group and a long-term couples group; she currently co-leads two long-term process groups in her private practice. Dr. Wodiska was an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Counseling and Human Services at Johns Hopkins University, where she taught basic and advanced group techniques, engaging students in experiential processes as well as clinical experiences. She was Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland and a Group Facilitator at Fordham University/Center for Personal Growth where she co-facilitated monthly process groups. 🌟

## member NEWS



**Vicki Tidwell Palmer's, LCSW, CSAT, SEP**, first book—*Moving Beyond Betrayal: The 5-Step Boundary Solution for Partners of Sex Addicts*—was the best-selling book for Central Recovery Press in 2016, and its number one new release in sexual health recovery and substance abuse recovery. A *Huffington Post* blogger, she is certified by the International Institute of Trauma and Addiction Professionals as a Sex Addiction Therapist, and certified by the Somatic Experiencing Trauma Institute as a Somatic Experiencing Practitioner. Ms. Palmer offers online courses, an online forum for partners of sex addicts, family of origin trauma intensives, and group psychotherapy. Her clinical specialties are sex and love addiction recovery, relational trauma, personal/couples boundaries, and mindfulness.



**SaraKay Smullens', MSW, BCD, CFLE, CGP**, personal papers as a researcher, author, and psychotherapist were recently organized and made ready for release at the Goucher College Special Collections and Archives. Ms. Smullens has dedicated her life to social work, especially in the areas of gender, family and family violence, and group psychotherapy. She also dedicated her career to reforming social policies that were detrimental to families and communities. Her papers include decades of outreach to policymakers and her involvement with various public and private organizations, drawing attention to the complexities of family violence and the need to support family life education. Her most recent book, *Burnout and Self-Care in Social Work*, was published in 2016. Her extensive research on emotional abuse highlights the ways abusive situations can be passed to future generations and have a dramatic impact on communities and societies at-large. Some of her papers have also been collected at the University of Pennsylvania and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. 🌟



**THE ATLANTA GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY (AGPS)** held its annual spring workshop on May 20. *Using Pesso Boyden System Psychomotor (PBSP) for Healing Attachment Wounds and Trauma: An Experiential Workshop for Therapists* was led by Gus Kaufman, Jr., PhD, a clinical psychologist who works with individuals, couples, families, and groups, as well as provides clinical supervision and training. PBSP is a powerful, yet gentle, and flexible method for changing old, dysfunctional patterns. This workshop presented PBSP theory and helped participants tune in to body signals and witness healing of deficits and wounds. The primary tool for this was having participants role-play ideal parents who would have provided the client with the right input at the right age. Visit [www.atlantagps.org](http://www.atlantagps.org).

**THE AUSTIN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY'S (AGPS)** intermediate Institute, *On The Fringe: Working with Feelings of Being an Outsider in Group*, was led by Patricia Florence, MA, LCSW, CGP. The program was designed to help therapists work with group members' feelings of being an outsider. AGPS held its spring workshop on May 19. *Finding Words for our Neurobiological Responses: Establishing the Foundations of Emotional Connection in Group*, led by Joseph Acosta, MA, LPC, CGP, FAGPA, explored developmental and functional aspects of the human nervous system and how they may affect the capacity to engage emotionally in group. Key interpersonal neurobiology concepts were presented. The workshop included a demonstration group, followed by an opportunity for all participants to talk about their experiences. Visit [www.austingroups.org](http://www.austingroups.org).

**THE CAROLINAS GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY (CGPS)** hosted its Spring workshop *Race, Sex and Power: The Triangle of Shame* on May 20-21 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The training group looked at issues of race, sex, power and shame. Members gained here-and-now experience working with these feelings, their resistances to these feelings, and gained more experience and comfort with their own feelings of desire, attraction, shame, and power. Yoon Im Kane, LCSW, CGP, a former graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Social Work, was the guest presenter. She is the Founder and Director of a private group psychotherapy practice in New York City and CEO of Everbliss, a platform for HIPAA secure tele-therapy.

**THE COLORADO GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY (COGPS)** hosted a Large Group Institute, led by Jeffrey Price MA, LPC, LAC, CGP, which offered an opportunity for the membership body to be in a group together and watch one of its senior members at work. COGPS is working with local group leaders to offer sponsorship deals; currently COGPS has sponsored a group on *White Privilege*, run by Philip Horner LCSW, CGP, a group on *Relationships*, led by Marian Salley LCSW, and a *Post-Inauguration Discussion Group*, led by Price. To sign up for COGPS's newsletter or listen to its podcast, the *Group Dynamics Dispatch* with Angelo Ciliberti MA, LPC, CGP, visit [www.cogps.org](http://www.cogps.org).


**THE EASTERN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY'S (EGPS)** Annual Conference, *Undying Promise, Undying Peril: Welcoming Vulnerability in Group*, will be held November 17-18, at The Riverside Church, New York City. Over the past two years, EGPS members participating in the *Work Group for Racial Equity* reading/discussion groups learned about the relationship between racism and mass incarceration. At the end of the year, members had an opportunity to participate in a project to send holiday cards to 160 of the 1,700 men who are warehoused in Sing Sing Prison. Twenty-seven members participated in the card-writing project, dubbed *A Small Act of Compassion*. Some sent cards from home, and some came together as a group on *Martin Luther King Day* to write and send cards. Although EGPS didn't anticipate receiving response letters, it rented a post office box for three months, just in case. The Affiliate received 32 letters from incarcerated men describing the full range of emotions and experiences of loneliness, hope, determination, spiritual solace, and their understanding of the racism of mass incarceration. Members realized that they had opened a door of need far beyond what they could address and beyond what they imagined. Interested group facilitators are urged to think about effective ways to harness some of members' group expertise to challenge the racism of mass incarceration. Visit [www.egps.org](http://www.egps.org).

**THE GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES (GPALA)** held its Annual Conference on May 19-20. In *What's Authority Got To Do with It? The Problem and Promise of Power as a Group Leader*, conference presenter Katie Griffin MA, LPC, CGP, FAGPA helped members explore, through didactic and experiential methods, the group leader's relationship to both concepts. It provided an opportunity to understand the transformative potential in groups conducted by leaders who comprehend the effectiveness of authority as creative, generative, and expansive. The risks, both to the dynamism of the group and to the enjoyment of the work by the leader, associated with unacknowledged needs in the group leader for evidence of power, were examined. On June 17-18, Gabriela Kohen, MFA, is bringing her one-woman show—*Decoding the Tablecloth*, a personal story

of intergenerational trauma and healing—to Los Angeles for two performances as a fundraising benefit for the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health and GPALA. This riveting experience, along with a Modern Analytic Training and Consultation Group, led by Jeffrey Hudson, MEd, LPC, CGP, FAGPA, the same weekend, will add to an exciting Spring for GPALA. Visit [www.gpala.org](http://www.gpala.org).

**THE HOUSTON GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY (HGPS)** held its Annual Institute in April. Keynote Speaker Susan Gantt, PhD, ABPP, CGP, DFAGPA, FAPA, presented *Systems-Centered Therapy (SCT) and its Interpersonal Neurobiology: Lowering Scapegoating and Developing our Social Brains*. Thomas Stone, Jr., PhD, CGP, FAGPA, presented a three-hour ethics course on *What About When It's Not Face-2-Face: A Group Dialogue About Ethics in the Virtual World*. The Institute also featured several process and special-interest groups. Institute Chair Jamie Cool, LCSW, and Co-Chair Mara Gittess, MA, LPC, and their committee of hard workers organized this event. As Chair of Leadership Development, Elyssa Fink Gottheim, LCSW, organizes key networking events throughout the year, including Meet and Greets and Salons. A January Salon and Open House featured Certified Sex Therapist Emily deAyala, MA, LPC, LMFT, of Revive Therapy, presenting *Sex Therapy 101: What Mental Health Professionals Need to Know*. Elyssa also organized a team of HGPS members who participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk in Houston on May 6. NAMI sponsors walks across the United States to raise awareness about mental illness and to raise funding to support their mission. Connie Moore, MEd, LPC, CGP, Training and Education Chair, continues to provide a rich array of advanced group training through HGPS Friday Brown Bags. In January, Elizabeth Knight, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA, and Raymond Lewis, ACSW, LMFT, led the experiential training *AK Rice, Group-as-a-Whole, Tavistock... Confusion Abounds*. Houston Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Chairperson Tom Carter, PhD, LPC, CGP, reports that the local Jungian SIG, Expressive Arts Therapies SIG, and Diversity SIG continue to be active. Community Outreach Chair Aaron Fink, MD, CGP, FAGPA, is collaborating with the Houston Independent School District to provide services to its teachers and school counselors. HGPS volunteers, including Nadia Leibovitz, LCSW, and Jay Tarnow, MD, will be leading support groups for the teachers. HGPS will also be

*Continued on page 8*



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# consultation, please!

Members are invited to submit questions about issues that arise in your group psychotherapy practices. They will be presented anonymously, as in the question here, and two AGPA members will be asked to respond to your dilemma. In this way, we all benefit from members' consultation from an objective point of view. SIG members are also encouraged to send cases that pertain to your particular field of interest. Contact Steve Van Wagoner, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Editor, **Group Circle** (slwagoner@verizon.net).

Dear Consultant:

*Susan joined my group four years ago. Last year, she got a new job, which requires her to travel quite a bit. Susan was adopted, and has a history of unconsciously inducing people in her life to get rid of her. I decided that as long as she could come when she could, she could stay in the group. In the last few months, the pattern has developed that she comes to group once or twice a month and takes up large amounts of time updating people about the chaotic events of her life. When she is not there, the group sometimes talks about their increasing frustration with this pattern. Other times when she is absent, the group does not even mention her name or ask about her absence, a sign to me that they want to get rid of her. I must admit, a part of me feels the same. It feels like a looming train wreck. Should I ask her to leave the group, or let this pattern play out?*

Signed,  
Conflicted

Dear Conflicted:

This is a challenging situation, so it makes sense that you are feeling torn. It does sound as though there has been an enactment of Susan's tendency to create circumstances that pull for rejection. While there are several fruitful directions you and your group can take with this, your first priority is to decide what is best for the group-as-a-whole.

First, could there be any counter-transference feelings you are trying not to have towards Susan? Although you acknowledge some desire to get rid of her, feelings possibly induced in you by others in the group, you also hint that you might have some guilt about this. Second, it is important to explore with Susan and the group how much her absence stems from realistic demands of her job, and what portion might be an emotional resistance. Is her travel schedule flexible? Are there any reasons why she may not *want* to attend regularly? For example, is her absence in reaction to a real or perceived slight in group? Is the level of intimacy overwhelming or unbearable for her? Is she attempting to avoid the pain of anticipated future rejection by making a gradual, preemptive exit? Is she conflicted about being fed, vacillating between emotionally restricting and binging?

In terms of the group, why are they letting her go unchallenged when she monopolizes a session? Why do they pretend she does not exist during her absence? Does the group have a capacity to hold on to other group members and keep each other in mind between group sessions, or is there a more general struggle with object constancy or attachment within the group? Does the group share with Susan that she is either ignored when she is not there, or the object of their frustration at other times? Does the group feel abandoned by her? How did group members feel towards her before she started coming inconsistently? How does the group feel towards you, the leader, for allowing such an arrangement with Susan to exist?

It will be important for you to draw the group aggression towards yourself so that Susan is not unduly scapegoated. (e.g., "Look at the bind I've put you in, by agreeing to let Susan show up for only half of the group meetings!"). If the group can talk about their full range of feelings towards you as it relates to her inconsistent attendance, then Susan gets some more digestible feedback while being insulated against possible scapegoating.



In the end, it may be treatment destructive for Susan to remain in group if she cannot attend consistently. If so, she could potentially be referred to another group that better suits her schedule. As a group leader, you could then facilitate a successful goodbye.

Regardless of how the situation with Susan and your group is resolved, the process of working through this dilemma may provide some valuable insights and opportunities for both you and your group. The group may discover: how to be more direct in their emotional communications; how treatment resistances can at times hide beneath credible reality constraints; insights into their own attachment styles; and how a group leader can openly embrace his or her own imperfections and shortcomings, and by doing so, be a highly approachable, good enough parent.

Tom Thorsheim, PhD, CGP  
Greenville, South Carolina

Dear Conflicted:

"Looming train wreck" is as clear an expression of anxiety as ever there was one. Sitting with such a feeling is one of the most difficult aspects of our work, and it is understandable how heart-wrenching holding space for these uncomfortable feelings can be.

Since you didn't mention a group discussion about the decision that Susan would remain in the group despite her work schedule, I'm assuming that decision was made between you and Susan outside of group. If that is true,

it also doesn't sound like once you made that decision, you checked in with the group about how the decision landed with them. If this is a weekly group and part of the contract or frame is to attend each session weekly, can Susan phone into your group sessions while she is traveling? Do the other group members feel like you hold Susan above them? Might they believe they are merely your biological children, but Susan is your adopted, chosen child who has special privileges because her situation is different from theirs?

The anxiety you allude to and the split you describe make me wonder if the group is in a paranoid-schizoid position that lends itself to the wish to kill off this member or "get rid of her." The hostility that you are sensing in the group, as well as bravely confessing to in yourself, indicates that Susan has become a scapegoat. How much is this hostility toward the scapegoat is really a displacement of the group's anger toward you, the group leader? Given that it is our role to protect the frame, and it seems you have remained quiet in your group about what may be a radical shift to the frame, the anxiety is mounting and the "looming train wreck" you feel coming may be your fear that the hostility will turn toward you.

Of course, when we are far away from the power of the projections and intense anxiety in the group experience, we can think clearly about our intention to bring about catharsis through the power of sharing words, but when we are affectively in it, sometimes we are as terrified of words as the group may be. Consider taking steps to soothe your own anxiety by preparing to hear things that may cause discomfort at first and even shame; wait for a window when by word or behavior the frustration toward Susan is evident in the group; then with compassion, wonder aloud with the group about how the decision to allow Susan to come and go may have affected each person's sense of security in the room and even each person's feelings toward the group leader.

Amanda Yoder, LCSW, CGP, CDWF  
Houston, Texas

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the last column submitted and edited by Michael Hegener, MA, LPC, CGP, FAGPA.



# groupcircle

25 East 21st Street, 6th floor  
New York, NY 10010

See *Group Assets* insert

## AFFILIATE SOCIETY NEWS

Continued from page 6

teaching a course on group therapy with children and adolescents for the counselors. HGPS continues to provide experiential and didactic group psychotherapy training to students and residents of Baylor College of Medicine and University of Texas Medical School. HGPS Faculty includes Patricia Barth, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA, LMFT; Travis Courville, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA; Aaron Fink; Franklin Gittess, MD; Cindy Hearne, PhD, CGP; Elizabeth Knight, MSW, CGP, DFAGPA; Jennifer Markey, PhD; Jana Rosenbaum, LCSW, CGP; Carol Vaughan, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA; and Robert White, MD, CGP, FAGPA. Led by Carol Vaughan, several HGPS members honored Patricia Barth, Elizabeth Knight, and Jeanne Pasternak, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA for their many years of leadership in AGPA by donating to name a 2017 AGPA Annual Meeting Workshop in their honor. The workshop, *Inspiring Passion for Group Therapy: Imagination and Demonstration*, was presented by Robert Bennett MD, Dale Godby, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA and Melissa Black, PhD, CGP and others from the Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. HGPS is busy preparing to host the 2018 AGPA Annual Meeting. The Local Task Force consists of Committee Chairs Jana Rosenbaum, LCSW, CGP, Helen Chong, LCSW, CGP, Aaron Fink, Jeanne Pasternak, Paul LePhouc, PhD, CGP, Linda Chase, LCSW, CGP, Advisor Patricia Barth, and more than 20 volunteers.

**THE ILLINOIS GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY (IGPS)** attendees at the AGPA's Annual Meeting in New York City gathered for their annual dinner get-together. Held at Carmine's Restaurant, they were able to donate meal leftovers to Rescuing Leftover Cuisine (RLC), a charitable organization that provides food to the homeless and food insecure of New York City and give an additional cash donation to pay for the pick-up. IGPS member Katie Steele, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, was thanked by RLC for the generous donation on behalf of IGPS. IGPS held its Spring Conference in Chicago in April. *Gloria Goes to Group: One Group: Three Theoretical Perspectives* featured Freda Friedman, PhD, LCSW, RNAP, Britt Raphling, LCPC, CGP, and Lawrence Viers, PhD., CGP, FAGPA. In the spirit of the Gloria tapes from the 1960s, in which one client was shown in session with Carl Rogers, Fritz Perls, and Albert Ellis, three different presenters conducted group therapy demonstrations from three different paradigms: Modern Analytic, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and Relational/Attachment Group Psychotherapy. Each group therapist led a 90-minute session with the same demonstration group. Attendees were able to experience all three perspectives, as well as a large group discussion about all three perspectives. The IGPS will hold its Fall Conference on October 20-21 in

Chicago. Katie Steele will present *The Promise of Real Play*. Real Play Group Psychotherapy engages the inner actor and observer at the same time. In this way, one is able to see deeper layers of their own process, as well as the process of others. The Real Play format is useful in dual relationship environments, such as teaching a group psychotherapy course where the experience of being in a group is a component of the class. Group members can maintain some sense of boundaries with classmates and professors, while still doing work at a meaningful level.

**THE MID-ATLANTIC GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY (MAGPS)** is continuing a 50-year tradition of providing continuing education and training opportunities for its members. In addition to twice yearly conferences, the Outreach Program and the Cinema Series, MAGPS is embarking on a new agenda. Developed by Education Coordinator Sally Brandel, PhD, CGP, and coordinated with newly installed President Lorraine Wodiska, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, MAGPS is adopting a theme and a set of questions to integrate learning for the next two years. The theme will be: The practice of group psychotherapy in times of national upheaval presents opportunities and dilemmas. Questions focus on challenges to ethical and moral values, the role of dissent and disruption on mental health, the concept of the bubble of liberal privilege, and ways to contribute to the healing of national divisions around race, class, gender, religion, and age. A continuing education team will support MAGPS programs in the task of incorporating theme into learning.

**THE PUGET SOUND GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY NETWORK'S (PGSPN)** 12th Annual Spring Conference was held on May 12-13 in a beautiful new location—the Talaris Conference Center in Laurelhurst. Haim Weinberg, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, presented *Impossible Groups that Thrive in Leaking Containers: Absorbing a New Paradigm for Group Therapy*. Conference Co-Chairs were Kavita Avula, PhD, and Jack Ringel, LICSW. Avula also presented at PGSPN's Spring 2017 Quarterly Professional Meeting on *Emergency Response Work Worldwide: Groups Across the Globe*. She spoke on the benefits of groups during or in the immediate aftermath of an emergency. Dan Gross, MSW, LICSW, recently presented *Group Therapy with Military Veterans: Effective Ways to Work with Trauma*. This event provided an introduction to working with veterans, discussion of various evidence-based treatments for veterans in groups, specific explanation of present centered therapy, and an experiential section that includes a debriefing/summary of learning. The presenter has more than a decade of experience serving Vets within and outside the VA Healthcare System,

and is a long-time practitioner of group psychotherapy.

**THE ROCHESTER AREA GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY (RAGPS)** hosted Macario Giraldo, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, in January. Dr. Giraldo presented *The Allure of Affect*, or the Lacanian notion that anxiety is the fundamental affect in psychoanalysis, i.e., it is the affect that does not lie. With this idea in mind, the all-day workshop addressed ways for clinicians to listen for, think about, and respond to the multitude of affects evoked in their clinical work. On May 19, Steve Van Wagoner, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, presented *The Interplay Between Envy, Competition and Shame: Its Impact on Intimacy in Groups*. During this all-day workshop, by means of didactic and experiential learning, attendees explored the ways in which the group therapist, group member and the group-as-a-whole, transform inevitable feelings of envy and competition into a creative and constructive process. The potentially destructive feelings of envy, jealousy, and perceived loss of power were brought to the fore so that group members could move from a state of emotional isolation to one of intimacy and relatedness.

**THE WESTCHESTER GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY (WGPS)** held a day-long conference on violence, co-sponsored by the Westchester Center for Psychological Education. Hosted by New York Presbyterian New York Hospital, Westchester Division, Conference Keynoters were Robert Klein, PhD, ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA, from Yale, New Haven, and Victor Schermer, MA, LPC, LFAGPA, from Philadelphia. Both have lectured nationally and internationally and have published extensively. They are co-authors of a book on dealing with psychological trauma and several articles on violence and a book (in press) on violence. Additional presenters were Raymond DiGiuseppe, PhD, ABPP; Richard Beck, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA; and Eliza Dragowski, PhD. Later in April, WGPS held a luncheon workshop on *Serious Fun: Spontaneity, Creativity and Play in Group Psychotherapy*, also led by Drs. Klein and Schermer.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Please note: Affiliate Societies may submit news and updates on their activities to Vanessa Spooner, PsyD, Editor of the Affiliate Society News column, by e-mail to: [vanessaspoonerpsyd@icloud.com](mailto:vanessaspoonerpsyd@icloud.com).

Visit AGPA's website at [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org) for updated Affiliate Society meeting information. For space considerations, upcoming events announced in previous issues are included in *Group Connections*.