NEWSLETTER OF THE GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH

groupassets



In this issue of Group Assets, we direct your attention to how the Group Foundation provides annual support to the AGPA Connect training week and beyond, as well as the inspiring story of Barbara Dazzo, PhD, LCSW, CGP-R, FAGPA. I also take genuine pleasure in thanking all our 2021 donors for their generosity; please see the listing on page 2 in this issue. Rich educational events and social gatherings at the AGPA Connect are made possible by their gifts. Also, check out our virtual booth at AGPA Connect. We hope you will stop by. Just picture the AGPA registration area and what delight it is to run into someone you have not seen in a year. Talking about opportunities, the Group Works for Communities raffle will again be offered with remarkable gifts. (Please see page 5 of the Group Circle.) If you don't play, you cannot win. Also noted is the upcoming event to honor Bob Klein in collaboration with the Westchester Group Psychotherapy Society. We have a full edition so please read on.

Karen Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA

The Group Foundation and AGPA Connect

Karen Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA, Editor, Group Assets

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health's mission states that it 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.

A key part of the education and training aspect is the support the Group Foundation provides annually to the AGPA Connect training week, this year to be held virtually February 28 to March 5. AGPA Connect is one way in which the Group Foundation is working to build the field of practice so that more groups can be offered by well-trained therapists. The Group Foundation is also committed to ensuring there is a culturally responsive trained workforce that is practicing group work in diverse practice settings, such as schools, mental health centers in communities, colleges, prisons, IOP's and PHP's, substance abuse clinics, private practices, and many others. During the virtual AGPA Connect 2022, we see an opportunity for unprecedented access to more than 200 training events to build group psychotherapy skills.

One way in which the Group Foundation is able to support AGPA Connect is through endowments that support major educational plenaries. This year, the following exemplary events are part of the AGPA Connect program.

MITCHELL HOCHBERG MEMORIAL PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENT

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 8:15 - 9:15 p.m. Eastern

Iwankapiya (Healing) - Historical Trauma and Unresolved Grief Intervention and Group Interpersonal Psychotherapy for American Indians

Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of New Mexico and Josephine Chase, PhD, MSW, Psychotherapy, Consultant, Horse Nation Healing, Inc. Rapid City, SD

ANNE AND RAMON ALONSO PRESIDENTIAL PLENARY ADDRESS

Friday, March 4, 2022, 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Eastern

The Future of Group Therapy is Bright!"

Gary Burlingame, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA, Incoming AGPA President

LOUIS ORMONT LECTURE

Saturday, March 5, 2022, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern

The Elusive Technique of No-Technique in Group Psychotherapy

Robert Unger, MSW, PhD, CGP, FAGPA

There are also 14 additional programs supported by the educational endowment that was established through the

capital campaign throughout the week of AGPA Connect; the program syllabus notes the programs that are supported through this endowment. For additional general support, the Foundation provides an annual educational grant to AGPA to help cover the operational expenses of the training, to contain the cost of attending the program. This year, the Group Foundation is also pleased to help support the Special Institute—Group Therapy in a Time of Racial Reckoning and Unrest— on Monday, February 28, to be presented by Kenneth Hardy, PhD.

Although this looked a little different last year and again this year, the Foundation also sponsors the popular Friday evening dance (and when we are in person the Luncheon) to provide some times during AGPA Connect to relax and join with one another in a party atmosphere. Virtual may be different, but we will still have the Friday evening time to listen to good music (and perhaps do some dancing), as well as chat in the breakout rooms with our friends and colleagues.

The Group Foundation also continues to offer its extensive Scholarship Program as a direct way to provide training in group therapy. The program provides scholarships for students, new professionals, and agency staff (to name just a few) to ensure access to quality experiential group training that they can't receive anywhere else. Offering scholarships gives opportunities for early career professionals to experience AGPA Connect, and, just as importantly, these professionals bring with them a diversity of experience and new ideas to enhance the pool of attendees at AGPA Connect who are learning from one another. This has always been a vital part of the Group Foundation—to ensure the vitality of AGPA Connect, as well as the AGPA experience throughout the year, as we hope and work to ensure that scholarship recipients continue with their membership, become leaders in the group therapy field, presenters at AGPA Connect, and perhaps even donors to the Group Foundation, coming full circle and therefore making the circle full.

I have always found it to be a richly rewarding experience to bring supervisees to AGPA Connect, whether mentoring them through the scholarship process, registration process, or longer into their careers. Many of them joined the circle, and those whose careers do not involve group work still recall their AGPA experiences with fondness. In fact, in this issue of *Group Assets*, I encourage you to read the *Faces of the Foundation* featuring Barbara Dazzo, PhD, LCSW, CGP-R, FAGPA, long-term member of the AGPA and supporter of the Group Foundation. Barbara tells us her path, which started with a scholarship, and the reasons she has so generously supported the Group Foundation with gifts and time. The Group Foundation thanks you for

FACES OF THE FOUNDATION

Barbara Dazzo, PhD, LCSW, CGP-R, FAGPA

In 1978, I attended my first AGPA Institute and Conference. I was the recipient of a scholarship from my local Affiliate, the New Jersey Group Psychotherapy Society, for the Institute and a day at the Conference. My participation in the Process Group gave me an opportunity to experience, among other emotions, my own fears and shame with the issues that were brought up. The group



were brought up. The group leader handled the sensitive material with such skill and compassion that I overcame my reluctance to participate just a little. At that point as a group therapist, I had experiences leading and participating in focused groups with mental health issues. There were so many choices of workshops that I knew this was a Conference and Institute that I could learn from, but I had a young family, and without great sacrifices, I couldn't afford the cost to attend every year if it wasn't in New York City near where I lived.

I joined committees to get more involved in AGPA, among them the Distance Learning Task Force and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, but along the way I always contributed to the Group Foundation's Education and Scholarship Fund. I never forgot what a difference this scholarship made in the beginning and throughout my career as a group therapist and a teacher.

When I joined the Group Foundation Board, I was interested in expanding membership to clinicians who couldn't afford to attend AGPA Institutes and the Conference. I knew that they didn't receive reimbursement for any continuing education, especially if they worked in not-for-profit agencies. This was my motivation for establishing the Barbara and Albert Dazzo Scholarship, which is dedicated to supporting students, residents, or new professionals delivering group services in a not-for-profit mental healthcare delivery system, such as a community healthcare organization, hospital, clinic, or agency with a preference for those working with underserved populations. The scholarship has been awarded several times now, and it has been a privilege to meet the recipients, see their dedication to the field, and discuss their work, their obstacles, and how AGPA and the Foundation supported their growth as group therapists.

Every Foundation Board member works to raise money for scholarships. Making the calls is the most difficult for me because I hated to call people who I didn't know and ask for money. But with much effort by the whole Board, it works. I was pleased, among other things, that the Group Foundation contributed to AGPA's Community Outreach efforts and now to our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work. I enjoyed serving on the Foundation Board and my other roles in AGPA. I am grateful for Marsha Block, CAE, CFRE, our former CEO, Diane Feirman, CAE, Public Affairs Senior Director, and Angela Stephens, CAE, CEO, who through the years prodded, cajoled, and supported me.

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Save the Date: April 30 For a Tribute to Dr. Robert Klein

The Westchester Group Psychotherapy Society and the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health are co-sponsoring an Attachment and Trauma Virtual Conference to honor the lifetime achievement of Robert Klein, PhD, ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA.

Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern Featured Presenters:

Aziza Belcher Platt, PhD Bonnie Buchele, PhD, ABPP, DFAGPA Carlos Canales, PsyD, FAGPA

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Following the educational program, there will be a virtual reception honoring Dr. Klein. All proceeds will benefit the Group Foundation. Keep an eye out for information on how to register!

DFAGPA

THE GROUP FOUNDATION AND AGPA CONNECT Continued from front page

sharing your story Barbara and knows that there are many such stories out there.

The Foundation hopes that each of you attending AGPA Connect this year will take note of the Foundation-sponsored events. Please, incorporate time to stop by our virtual booth so that we can visit with you. If you would like to set up a specific time to visit and hear more about the work of the Foundation in conjunction with AGPA Connect, as well as our work through the year, contact Diane Feirman, CAE, Public Affairs Senior Director, at dfeirman@agpa.org. Our desire is to respond to all donors and connect with attendees. If there are questions or comments you have, we want to hear from you. The Group Foundation wishes you and your family all the best in 2022. See you at AGPA Connect.

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