**EDITOR’S NOTE**

You may notice a change in the content in this issue of Group Assets. Rather than reporting the news of the Group Foundation solely through an Editor’s article, we invite those who are actively involved to share their experiences of being part of a community that has committed to supporting the field of group psychotherapy.

This issue focuses on local events that have taken place. This is an effort to create a more inclusive and dynamic way to represent all of the important work that goes on within the Foundation.

My thanks to the contributors who helped launch this new direction.

Connie Concordan, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA
Editor, Group Assets

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**Rochester Presents Decoding the Tablecloth**

On November 18, the community of Rochester, New York, was fortunate to host Gabriela Kohren, MFA, who performed her play Decoding the Tablecloth as a fundraiser benefiting three organizations: AGPA, JCC of Rochester, and the Jewish Federation of Rochester.

Kohren, a New York actress, dancer, and choreographer and performer, organized a fundraiser to benefit the Foundation. Fitzstevens, LCSW-R, CGP, organized a fundraiser for the Rochester community and her family made for a riveting experience, as more than 20 characters of her family growing up in Jewish and Latino communities in New York City and Argentina. Her performance illuminates the phenomenon of transgenerational trauma and how it was evidenced through five generations of her family. Her poignant shifts between the many members of her family made for a riveting experience, as she transitioned back and forth between the present and the past. Her extraordinary facility to personify the characters is, no doubt, informed and enhanced by her training and practice as a modern psychoanalyst. This play relates to the group therapy process if we consider our family as an actual group, as well as the family group inside our mind. On behalf of the Group Foundation, we shall be thrilled to be able to bring this play to our community and provide an opportunity to view and discuss it.

Christine Fitzstevens, LCSW-R, CGP, Aaron Black, PhD, and Phyllis Rikin-Russell, MS, LMHC, CGP, members of the Group Foundation Board of Directors, underwrote the expenses so that all proceeds directly support Foundation programs.

The event was held at the JCC of Rochester. We were so fortunate to have the Jewish Federation on board as promoters of our fundraiser and contributors. Specifically, we thank Bonnie Altmann for her contributions! Ralph Meranto, CenterStage Artistic Director, was invaluable as he worked very closely with Howard Markus and Chris Fitzstevens on all the crucial details that made our event flow seamlessly from a pre-production reception for the event’s patrons to a small post-production gathering in honor of Gabri. Steve Russell and Bill Watson were huge additions in their support of Aaron Black as purveyors of the fine wines served at the reception that was lively, fun, and well attended. It was truly a group effort.

The projected income for the Group Foundation is approximately $5,000, which will go directly to supporting scholarships for AGPA Connect. One lovely moment was when a former local scholar recipient spoke about the benefits of receiving the Foundation’s support. It’s exciting to have an event provide a service and connection to our local community, while simultaneously helping others in our larger group psychotherapy community get training and support.

We thank all those who attended the play, and we thank Gabriela Kohren for sharing her story, which is a gift to all who have the opportunity to be her witness.

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**Houston Hosts Event to Benefit Foundation Scholarships**

This past October, five of us from Houston (Patricia Barth, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA, Elizabeth Knight, MSW, CGP, DFAGPA, Carol Vaughan, LCSW, CGP, LFAGPA, Bob White, MD, CGP, LFAGPA, and Sara Jane White, PhD, FACCH) hosted and sponsored our annual event to raise funds for the Group Foundation. Our theme was “Decoding the Tablecloth,” focusing on family dynamics and the intergenerational transmission of trauma. The event was hosted at the heartwarming Archway Gallery, which provided three of its books, which were given away in a drawing.

The event was enhanced by the wine and appetizers that were catered by a local chef. We also had a delightful surprise with the attendance of Marsha Block, CAE, CFRE, CEO, Angela Stephens, CAE, Professional Development Senior Director, and Lori Miller, CAE, meeting consultant, who were in town for a site visit at the two hotels hosting AGPA Connect. A good time was had by all, and almost $4,000 was raised to support scholarships for AGPA Connect 2018 being held February 26-March 3 in our hometown of Houston. The scholarships provide much-needed training for students, new professionals, and agency and military employees who would otherwise not be able to attend the event.

To add to the excitement of AGPA Connect being in Houston, AGPA will be honoring three AGPA/Houston GPS leaders: Elizabeth Knight will be presenting the Institution Membership award, Patricia Barth will present the Leadership Diversity award, and Richard Brink will present the Membership Leadership award.

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**Group Foundation Board and Rochester community members (left to right) Aaron Black, PhD, Phyllis Rikin-Russell, MS, LMHC, CGP, and Christine Fitzstevens, LCSW-R, CGP, organized a fundraiser to benefit the Foundation.**

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**The Faces of Our Foundation**

If you have attended the AGPA Annual Meeting with any regularity over the past couple of decades, you have been definitively aware of Patricia Barth, PhD, BFAGPA, behind a podium. She was the Foundation-sponsored event during the conference or giving a Treasurer’s Report at the AGPA Board Meeting or the Community Meeting. Once you have seen her you won’t forget her. She stands out with her elegant in her leadership positions and her presentations.

Pat is a clinical psychologist practicing in Houston, Texas, and a Distinguished Fellow of AGPA. She has also served on the Faculty of Baylor College and has supervised the Group Psychotherapy Residency Program. You have seen her name on the Faculty of the AGPA Annual Meeting for many years, leading workshops and serving as an institute group leader.

Pat also served in AGPA governance in the capacity of Treasurer, and it was my pleasure to serve with her on the Executive Committee. Her most significant contribution was her eight-year tenure as the Chair of the Group Foundation, providing leadership throughout our highly successful Capital Campaign. During her tenure as Chair, she was tireless in supporting the goals of the Foundation, growing it from $250,000 to $2 million. She took upon herself the task of sharing what her involvement with the Foundation has meant to her.

“I initially joined the Foundation when asked by Anne Altiman, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA, I looked forward to being on the Board and learning more about the organization. Little did I know what the extent of my involvement would be! Chair for eight years. It was a privilege to be involved in the Capital Campaign and to help build our financial base. I was so fortunate to have the Jewish Federation on board as a key sponsor of the capital project that made the Davies Center possible. While we were not able to pay off the headquarters debt, it was also a privilege to work with a diverse group of board members and to build on what had already been accomplished. While young people not tending to join organizations in today’s world, it is even more important to reach out to try to bring them in. So many charities are asking for our dollars today. We have to pick and choose. The Group Foundation is on the top of my list.”

When I look back on all of the contributions that Pat Barth has made to AGPA and to the Group Foundation, I think that we are the ones who are truly blessed. She has given her time, her leadership, and her heart to supporting the work of our organization. We owe both Pat and her husband, Dr. Merle Barth, a debt of gratitude for their generosity at many levels. I am proud to call them my friends.

Connie Concordan, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA
Editor, Group Assets

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**The Legacy Society**

We appreciate the provisions these planned gift donors have made for the Group Foundation.

Ramon Alonso
Shari & Allan Baron
Patricia & Merle Barth
Richard Brink
Marsha Block & Leonard Walter
Trish Cleary & John D’Amico
Keith Rand & John D’Amico
Lisa Mahon & Phil Flores
Phyllis Cohen
Jerry & Nancy Coons
Katie Griffin
David Hawkins
Terry Henry
Jeffrey Hudson & Robert Blodgett
Suzanne Jensen
Cele Keeper
Barbara Kozell
Lisa Mahon & Phil Flores
Jan Morris
Keith Rand & John D’Amico
Joseph Shay & Laura Zimmerman
Lorraine Wodiska
Elliot Zeisel & Mary Sussillo

Continues on next page
2017 Community of Givers

GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Leaders
Jesse and John Poole
Alex Lerner
Craig L. Lewis
George D. Daut
Barry Diller
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Paul Tagliamonte
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Robert Klein
Nancy & Jerry Kelly
Suzanne Cohen
Joanna & Eric Weber
Karen Travis
Andrea Pully
Mary Nicholas
Paul Kaye
Barbara & Fred Ilfeld
Barry Helfmann
($2,500 - $4,999)
Charles and Merryl Zegar
Jeffrey Hudson & Robert Hsiung
Phyllis Cohen & Phyllis Rifkin-Russell & Eleanor & Ramon Alonso
Leaders will be honored as a new Distinguished Fellow; and Patricia Barth was honored as the next year’s AGPA Foundation opening plenary speaker. Jeanne Pasternak, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA, was the keynote speaker. Being a Distinguished Fellow means being...