In this issue of Group Assets, we say goodbye to long-term Board Members and welcome new Board Members. It is important to us at the Group Foundation to introduce our leadership to our donors so that they know who we are as we continue to work toward our strategic goals. It is always sad to see Board Members who are leaving for their many years of dedicated service and thankful to our new Board Members and, of course, to our continuing members, who are willing to serve in different capacities (see sidebar on page 2).

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

Meet Your Group Foundation Leadership

Helen Chao
AGPA Connect 2019 was a formative experience in my career development before I even graduated from grad school. When I saw a call for early career professionals to join the Board, I jumped at the opportunity. I want to help group therapy be more widely used and, specifically, more accessible, especially to communities historically underserved. We are all in groups, regardless of origin, creed, or ability. Personally, I am also seeking professional mentorship and growth.

Jacquelin Darby
I felt inspired to join the Board because I like group work. I like being in spaces where I can see the group process manifest itself outside of the therapy space. Seeing how the organization functions on a national level helps me grow as a leader and as a clinician. Additionally, I believe the field is facing change as it becomes more diverse and I want to be a part of that change. I was also encouraged to apply by a member of my local Affiliate Society because she believed that I had the potential to take on a leadership position.

Kathy Rider
I was inspired to move into the Vice Chair role because I believe the Group Foundation is one of the best-kept secrets within AGPA and the Affiliate Societies. I became involved in the Foundation in the late 1980s and then returned to the Board in 2006. As the needs of our world have become more centered in the Foundation’s work, the Group Foundation has evolved into a public mental health resource, both nationally and internationally.

Shelley Firestone
AGPA has been my professional family for more than 20 years, and I have learned that the relationships I create here are to be treasured. What nudged me into action was the recognition that at 70-1/2, it was time to withdraw money from my IRA. I realized that I am not the only one with sudden access to these funds; I can join others to use the money wisely. I am grateful for the opportunity to be working with AGPA colleagues and donors, and what better cause than doing the work of the Group Foundation, raising money for scholarships, planning special events, and contributing other activities that support AGPA, ensuring its stability and its longevity.

Henry “Enrique” Ortiz
I was inspired to join the Board of the Group Foundation by my mentor Keith Rand. I became a Co-President of my Affiliate Society—the Group Psychotherapy Association of Los Angeles—this year, and Keith encouraged me to take on more leadership on the national level. I am very much enjoying the process and getting to know the fascinating and inspiring people on this Board.

Gil Spielberg
It was the time in my career to do what I can to insure the continuation of AGPA. I am joining the Board with a willingness to learn. I only understand the mission of the Foundation and the more visible activities which it funds at AGPA Connect. I always gave myself time to learn about the group I am joining before I pushed or sometimes even develop my own agenda. I have a general sense that our methods of...
2022 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH

GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2022

Leader ($10,000 & above)
Estate of Nanine Ewing

Sustainer ($5,000 - $17,499)
Gloria Kahn

Explorers ($2,500 - $4,999)
Patricia & Merle Barth
Jeffrey Hudson & Robert Blodgett
Barbara & Fred Iffeld
Molly Lenzo
Darriy Pure & Raquel Corrê

Facilitators ($1,000 - $2,499)
Ramon Alonso
Khieber Atwell
Austin GPS
Eleanor & Chuck Counselman
Northeastern SCP

Sponsors
(1500 - 1999)
Kathleen Ault
Barbara Dazzo
Mary & John Dlouhy
Eastern GPS
Florida GPS
Richard Jennings
Leo & Sharon Leiderman
Mid Atlantic GPS
Rhea Pledger
Phyllis Rifkin-Russell & Steven Russell
Sarah Kay Smulian
Ryan Spencer
Tracy Straus
Karen Travis

Contributors (up to $249)
Anonymous (1)
Bruce Bernstein
Arthur Byk
John Chebulitz
Marvin Gifford
Judith Cochel
Michelle Collins-Greene
Scott Conkright
Elaine Cooper
Joleen Cooper-Bhatia
Paul Cox & Catherine Brennan
Robin Dean
Chera Finnis
Shelley Firestone
Susan Garnt
Daniel Harrop
Bob Hsiung
Thomas Hurster
Yoon Im Kane
Terrence Kava
Joseph Kobos
R. Tracy MacNab
Anne McEneaney
Andrew Merlarego
Faroq Mohiyuddin
Reginald Nettles
Owen O'Brien
Michael Patti
Rena Polak
Liz Rosenblatt
Joan Scherf
Zipora Shechtman
Tony Shepphard
Bettie Specta
Nina Thomas
Kathleen Ulman

Donations may not rely heavily enough on social media, which could attract donations from a younger AGPA demographic. Beyond that, I am eager to learn and work.

Lorraine Wodiska

I was elected to the position of President-Elect of AGPA and am honored to be in this new role, which includes a place on the Foundation Board. I deeply respect the mission of the Foundation, which among other things, is to provide scholarships to students and others who are interested in group work, to those who offer group services, and to those who want to learn and become more proficient in our art and science. While this is certainly an advantage to those who apply for scholarships, the return to AGPA is rich, as we continue to attract younger members and more recent professionals who bring us new ideas and great energy.

In the past, I have made contributions to the Foundation to honor individuals, to fund our efforts towards Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and to modernize our technology. This is because I believe that recognition of deserving individuals enhances our reputation of excellence; a DEI focus is crucial for our important work towards becoming an antiracist organization; and improving our website gives us a better landing site and excitement for those who are engaged in group work, hopefully sparking an interest in joining AGPA.

I would like to understand more of how the Foundation fits in as part of the larger AGPA organization, its mission, and our overall contribution to the field of group psychotherapy. In addition to learning about the culture of the Foundation, I would like to continue developing and encouraging contributions that support the significant endeavors of the Foundation and would like to consider the possibility of drawing from a wider range of donors.

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed hearing the voices of our new Board members and Vice-Chair. The responses ring of the belief in group treatment, the funding of the AGPA and its community outreach work, diversity and inclusion, and the importance of mentoring. A new group has formed, and of course, subgroups exist. We want you, our donors, to know that our new Foundation Board will continue to work together to meet future needs and challenges, seeking what is integral to accomplish our mission. We look forward to partnering with you in that process. As always, we want to hear from you. Contact us at dfirman@agpa.org.

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Contributing Member Bards
Maryetta Andrews-Sachs, MA, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA
Gary Burlingame, PhD, CGP, DFAAGPA
Connie Concanon, LCSW, DFAAGPA
Robert Hsiung, MD
Barbara Ildid, MSN, RNCS, CGP, FAGPA
Gloria Kahn, EdD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA
Cheryl Kalter, PhD, LPC, CGP
Molly Lenzo, MD, FRCPC, CGP, DFAAGPA
Mary Nicholas, PhD, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA
Rhea Pledger, MLA, LPC, CGP
Darriy Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA
Keith Rider, LMSW, BCDA, CGP, FAGPA
Philip Siegel, Esq.
Angela Moore Stephens, CAE
Karen Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA
Kathleen Ulman, PhD, CGP, DFAAGPA

New Board Members
Helen Chao, MSW
Jacqueline Darby, PhD, CGP
Shelley J. Firestone, MD, CGP, FAGPA
Enrique Ortiz, PsyD
Lindsey Randol, PsyD, LPC
Gil Spielberg, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA
Lorraine Wodiska, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA

Group Foundation Honors Scholarship and Award Winners

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, the philanthropic arm of the AGPA, celebrates its 2022 scholarship and award winners. A myriad of awards that support the training of group therapists and the use of group in communities to effect change are distributed through the Foundation. Those recognized included:

• Leonard Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, received the Social Responsibility Award in recognition of his generous volunteer work in support of numerous communities, with particular recognition of his extensive work over the past few years in response to human rights, the migration crisis, and support for immigrants. Please view Leo’s acceptance of the award.

• Alonso Awards for Excellence in Psycho-dynamic Group Theory were given to Les Greene, PhD, CGP, DFAAGPA, for his article “The Research-Practice Psychotherapy Wars: The Case of Group Psychotherapy in the Treatment of PTSD,” which was published in the International Journal of Group Psychother- apy, and to Cheri Marmarosh, PhD, FAPA, FAGPA, for editing the special issue of the International Journal of Group Psychotherapy on rupture and repair in group therapy.

• More than 80 individuals received scholar- shipstext to attend Virtual AGPA Connect 2022, supported by endowed scholarship funds and private donations. Please see the Group Foundation Gratitude Brochure for the complete list of endowed scholar- ship recipients and programs at AGPA Connect, as well as for a list our generous donors who make the programs possible.

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