

groupassets



Realizing the Dream

Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, DFLAGPA, Editor, Group Assets



It was wonderful seeing all of you at AGPA's 75th Anniversary Meeting celebration. The milestone achievements that we came together to recognize were literally the things we dreamed of in our not so distant past.

We used to dream of ways to bring in the next generation of group therapists to grow their leadership skills and pass on our cumulative knowledge. We used to dream of ways that we could underwrite the Annual Meeting that would ensure the continued standard of excellence that has always been part of our training events. We also dreamed of ways we could strengthen our relationships within our membership family at the national and the local level so we could continue our connections beyond our Annual Meeting. Because we were big dreamers, we also dreamed of underwriting group therapy research so we could continue to support the efficacy of group work and share it with the greater world.

Now that I have shared our collective dreams, as group therapists love to do, I want to share with you the amazing reality of what we have achieved. We have developed a Scholarship Program extraordinaire. The Scholarship Program was the first fund raising effort that captured our hearts and our community spirit of giving. This year, we awarded more than 200

This year, we also instituted Single Event Tribute Programs and Scholarships to honor leaders in our communities and to raise funds for the Foundation. Five events and two scholarships honoring 21 past and present leaders were supported; you can see their names and the donors in this issue.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed so much of your time, talent, heart, and pledges, to help us realize these dreams.

We also continue, in cooperation with our Affiliate Societies, to conduct local events to raise funds for the Foundation. The events have successfully raised funds, and have also been wonderful ways to come together as a community, many times to honor our local leaders. These fun and meaningful celebrations also strengthen the local society's ties to AGPA. It's a great way to keep the fires of the Annual Meeting burning all year long. I hope you will attend an event in your community or think about hosting one yourself.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We are now looking to the future and ways to expand our programs and our dreams. Our three-year 75th Anniversary Campaign has an overarching goal of reaching \$7.5 million in giving over the lifetime of the Foundation, along with a goal of increasing our annual giving, which will allow us to sustain and increase our programs. Our focus is in the areas of scholarships, research, Affiliate Society support, agency training, community outreach, and technology. We have learned that fund raising skills are not a product of marketing or advertising, but are skills built on the foundation of relationships. Somehow, I think we should have known that, when in our teachings and trainings we often say, "It's all about the relationship."

To achieve our new fund raising goals, we first began working with our organizational leadership. We reached out and drew upon our shared work, history, and values and provided education on our new dreams and appreciation for all they have done to support the Foundation and group therapy. We have had a good response for new and increased annual pledge commitments.

We have received a number of special gifts in honor of AGPA's 75th Anniversary, some of which are gifts for our ongoing programs and some of which are for new special funds; four new Endowed Scholarship Funds have been established as part of the campaign. This whole area of giving deserves an article of its own, and I will be talking about it more in-depth in the next newsletter.

A third area of giving we are focusing on is increasing contributions through planned giving, such as bequests. Please consider the Group Foundation as part of your estate planning. I have personally learned there are many creative ways that you can contribute with different assets to fit your current needs and tax considerations.

Most importantly, we are building relationships. We have had incredibly positive responses from the people to whom we have already reached out and to the activities we have initiated to thank and inform donors (including, for example, special advance emails of our Group Assets newsletter highlighting activities and thanking donors).

Continues on next page

THE FACES OF OUR FOUNDATION

If you don't recognize his face, I'm sure that you will recognize his name. It's a beloved and respected name in AGPA and the Group Foundation. David Hawkins, MD, CGP, DFLAGPA, practices group and individual psychotherapy in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and is affiliated with Duke University. David has served in many leadership positions in the governance of AGPA and has been on the Conference and Institute Faculty for more than 30 years. I had the pleasure of serving with David on the AGPA Board of Directors when we started on our road to leadership. He is smart, funny, and warm and is always available to help in the work of the organization. He has remained my friend and respected colleague over the years.



If something important was happening in AGPA, David was always there, lending his wisdom and his support. You have seen him on the podiums at many Annual Meetings, giving wonderful addresses that are known for being warm, personal, and engaging. An AGPA Distinguished Fellow, he is a Past President of AGPA, a Past Chair of the Annual Meeting Committee, and Past Vice Chair of the Group Foundation. These are just a few of the highlights of his contributions to leadership.

David played a significant role in the development of the Group Foundation and over years in the success of our fund raising efforts. To give you just one example, he was the Vice Chair when the Capital Campaign successfully raised the funds to purchase the AGPA Headquarters. David has served on the Foundation Board for two decades. This year was his last year serving on the Board, and he will be missed by all of us.

As you can see, David has been front and center stage in the history of AGPA. And, when I say center stage, I literally mean center stage. David has been the Director and part of the cast at the Foundation Luncheons, celebrating our significant anniversaries, and always delivering a stellar performance. For those of you who were at our recent 75th Anniversary Luncheon in New York, you had the pleasure of hearing David sing a song he composed, that I can only describe as a love song for AGPA. David expressed in a touching way his appreciation and love for our community that moved us all. We want you to know that we love you back David.

LEGACY SOCIETY

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

Ramon Alonso
Shari & Allan Baron
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During the Group Foundation Luncheon at the 75th Anniversary Meeting, attendees were treated to a comedy tribute to AGPA—Still Grouping After All These Years—created by David Hawkins and Sandy Hutton.

scholarships, and collectively more than 1,500 during the program's existence. You can see the positive impact of the program in the faces of the hundreds of the new professionals who are filling our conference, and now our leadership positions. It's inspirational.

Beyond the Scholarship Program, 16 events at our Annual Meeting are now endowed through capital gifts. This has allowed us to bring the most relevant issues, presented by prominent speakers, researchers, and clinicians to our Public Events. A wonderful example of this is the Anne and Ramon Alonso Plenary given at our 2017 75th Anniversary Meeting. Plenary Speaker Elisabeth Rohr, PhD, who has extensively researched migration, fundamentalism, gender, and supervision, gave a stellar address on migration called *Humanity on the Move—Groups Too?*, which was research-based and deeply moving. Its relevance to our current national and international struggles was alive in the audience's intense and personal responses to the material. It was an incredible public event.

2017 Community of Givers

GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2017

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TRIBUTE GIFTS

The following individuals were honored by the contributors listed with a program or scholarship in their name at AGPA's 75th Anniversary Meeting, held recently in New York City. Donors are listed in italics.

PROGRAM

David Hawkins
Bonnie Buchele
Scott Conkright
Hank Fallon
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Connie Concannon; Donald Shaskan;
Walter Stone
Patricia & Merle Barth
Martha Gilmore & Haim Weinberg
Scott Rutan
Geoffrey Shaskan

Group Foundation Honors Scholarship and Award Winners

During the AGPA's 75th Anniversary Meeting in New York City, the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health sponsored a luncheon honoring scholarship and award winners, as well as the generous contributors who make the program possible. A myriad of tuition, travel and monetary awards, supporting the training of group therapists and the use of group in communities to effect change, are distributed through the Foundation.

The Alonso Award for Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Therapy was



ALONSO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE in PSYCHODYNAMIC GROUP THERAPY recipients are (left to right): Haim Weinberg, PhD, CGP, FAGPA; Ravit Raufman, PhD; and John Schlapobersky, BA, MSC, CGP.

given to Ravit Raufman, PhD, and Haim Weinberg, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, for their article *To Enter One's Skin: The Concrete and Symbolic Functions of the Skin in the Social Unconscious, as Expressed in Fairy Tales and Group Therapy* and to John Schlapobersky, BA, MSC, CGP, for his book *From The Couch To The Circle: Group-Analytic Psychotherapy in Practice*.

The Theater of War of New York, New York, received the Aaron Stein Memorial Award for its creative use of groups in non-therapeutic settings to benefit the community.

More than 200 individuals received scholarships to attend the Annual Meeting, supported through endowed scholarship funds and private donations. 🙏



THE AARON STEIN MEMORIAL AWARD recipient, *Theater of War*, recently featured readings of Sophocles' ancient Greek war plays, *Ajax* and *Philoctetes*, with actors David Strathairn, Frances McDormand, and Reg E. Cathey.

REALIZING THE DREAM

Continued from front

The 75th Anniversary Campaign has been very successful so far. In fact, we anticipate meeting our primary goal of \$7.5 million cumulative giving before the end of the three years. That's amazing! I mean it when I say we couldn't have done it without you.

We are now entering the next phase of our campaign, when we will be reaching out beyond our leadership and inviting all of our current donors, AGPA members, and friends of the group therapy community to hear our story and either increase their participation or to become a part of our donor community for the first time.

We invite you to consider commemorating AGPA's 75th Anniversary with a gift to support the group community—be that with a special gift, an annual pledge, a bequest, or all three! We'll be connecting with all of you over the next year in a variety of ways. We also want you to know that the Foundation Board and staff are available to talk with you about what the Group Foundation is doing—and planning to do—to support the field of group psychotherapy.

Thank you for helping us realize our collective dream, and thank you for living the dream with us. 🙏

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