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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES GROUP THERAPY
TRAINING SUPPORT FOR CLINICIANS AND CHAPLAINS WORKING WITH
ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERANS

February 13th – February 27th, 2021

NEW YORK, January 13, 2021 – The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) welcomes all clinicians and chaplains working with active military and veterans to **AGPA Virtual Connect 2021**, its annual training conference, entitled “The Power of Groups in a Challenging World.” In recognition of the care and service such individuals have been providing to the men and women who have served, current and past, in missions throughout the world, AGPA is offering a 35% registration discount for this conference as well as opportunities for tuition support through the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, the organization’s philanthropic arm. We believe the virtual format of this year’s conference will enable increased access for all.

“Groups have a long history of successfully working with active troops and veteran populations, dating back to World War II,” said Melyn Leszcz, MD, FRCPC, CGP, DFAGPA, AGPA President. “We are privileged to be able to provide this training and support at **AGPA Connect** to those who are helping the men and women of the U.S. military, veterans and their families.”

There are a variety of educational opportunities on the **AGPA Virtual Connect** program with relevance for military personnel and veterans’ hospital and agency staff, including:

- **“Dissociation and Complex Trauma in Group Members and Leaders”** – a two-day experiential institute with Leo Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, FAACP, CGP, FAGPA
- **“Groups as Cultures of Resilience: A Psychodynamically Oriented Decolonizing Approach to Treating Addiction and Trauma”** – an all-day workshop with Marcia Nickow, PsyD, CADC, CGP and Joe Whitlock, CADC, MISA
- **“Developing an Evidence-Based Wellness Group for Veterans and Older Adults: Challenges and Lessons Learned”** – a 1.5 hour morning workshop with Kristen Anderson, PhD, LCPC; Victoria Bacon, EdD, CGP; Maureen Boiros, Med, RN
- **“Confronting Aggressive Scapegoating in Group Therapy and Society: An Ethical Obligation of Mental Health Clinicians as Demonstrated by the Berkeley Civic Courage and Heroism Experiment”** – a 2.5 hour morning workshop with Bill Roller, MA, FAGPA and Xu Yong, MD, CGP, FAGPA
- **“A No-Judgment Zone Helps Heal Addiction”** – a 1.5 hour afternoon workshop with Geoffrey Kane, MD, MPH and Suzanne Brennan Nathan, PsyD, LICSW, CGP

- **“The Gratitude of Loss: Utilizing the Stages of Grief as a Strategy for Sustainable Sobriety”** – a 2.5 hour afternoon workshop with Andrew Susskind, LCSW, SEP, CGP
- **“Yearning for Connection: Seeking Belonging and Intimacy Despite Isolation”** – an all-day workshop with Allan Sheps, MSW, RSW, CGP, FCGPA and Joan-Dianne Smith, MSW, RSW, FCGPA
- **“Endings and Loss: How We Are Changed”** – a 2.5 hour afternoon workshop with Jeffrey Mendell, MD, CGP and Marsha Vannicelli, PhD, CGP, LFAGPA

This one-of-a-kind event, bringing together many of the nation’s leading group therapists, will explore the variety of ways in which group therapy can help people and communities in today’s world. Scholarships are also available to attend this Meeting. For more information, contact AGPA at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or visit www.agpa.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of **AGPA Connect 2021**. To register, please send an e-mail request to dfairman@agpa.org or call 877-668-AGPA (2472).

About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, its philanthropic arm; and the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members including psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, as well as mental health, family, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning. The association also has 21 local and regional societies located across the country.

AGPA is committed to supporting the dignity and psychological safety of every individual without discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sex, age, or disability. Central to our mission is a belief in the power of groups to treat mental illness, heal the scars from traumatic events, and enhance the well-being of adults and children in their families, schools, corporate settings, and communities.

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