

# groupassets



## Meet Your Group Foundation Leadership

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



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 people leave the group, and yet we know there is a time for moving on. Fortunately, there are people available to assume new roles, to offer new ideas, and to promote and work diligently toward our mission. We are grateful to the 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). Caring, concerned, thoughtful, forward-thinking leadership is vital at any time, and it seems more so now than ever in our communities, our country, and in our world. Our Board will continue under the leadership of Chair Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA.

Being a Board Member comes with many responsibilities. In addition to raising money for the Group Foundation, the Board sets the Group Foundation's priorities and is responsible for the stewardship of money raised and for making sure our funds are spent in such a way that matches our purpose. This is our promise to our donors.

We all know group work changes lives. As Board Members, we know about group leadership and the importance of working toward a greater social good, creating shared values, and focusing on the impact we can have in other's lives in a changing world. An article, "From Purpose to Impact," published in the Spring 2020 *Harvard Business Review* perfectly summarizes how we on the Foundation Board feel. Authors Nick Craig and Scott Snook wrote: "...your leadership purpose is who you are and what makes you distinctive. Your purpose is your brand, what you are driven to achieve, the magic that makes you tick. It's not what you do, it's how you do your job and the strengths and passions you bring to the table no matter where you are seated. Although you may express your purpose in different ways in different contexts, it is what everyone close to you recognizes as uniquely you and would miss most if you were gone."

There will be much to miss about our exiting Board Members: Patricia Barth, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA, (22 years including eight as Chair of the Foundation); Eleanor Counselman, EdD, ABPP, CGP, DLFAGPA (eight years); Barbara Dazzo, LCSW, PhD, FAGPA, CGP-R, (13 years); Christine Fitzstevens, LCSW-R, CGP, FAGPA, (nine years); Les Greene, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA, (10 years); and Lisa Mahon, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, (15 years, including six as Chair of the Foundation). Thanks to each of you for your outstanding service to the Group Foundation Board; your wisdom and work will live on.

For the first time, we have a new Board membership category of Emerging Leaders. The inaugural group of members are Helen Chao, MSW, Jacquelin Darby, PhD, CGP, Enrique Ortiz, PsyD, and Lindsey Randol, PsychD, LPC. In the general Board member category, new members are Shelley Firestone, MD, CGP, FAGPA, Gil Spielberg, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, and Lorraine Wodiska, PhD,

ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, who joins us in her capacity of President-Elect of AGPA. Changing positions, but not Board membership are Keith Rand, LMFT, CGP, FAGPA, who is stepping down as Vice-Chair and long-time Board member, Kathy Rider, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA, who is coming into that position.

We posed two questions to our new Board Members and our new Vice-Chair, to help you get to know them better: 1. What transpired or inspired you to want to be part of the Group Foundation Board of Directors? and 2. What would you like to see happen while on the Board as a group with our mission and are there individual goals you desire?" Here's what they told us:

### 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.



I would like to see the Board continue its work towards becoming anti-racist. I would like to see the Board and by extension AGPA view ways in which it maintains oppressive systems with its policies. My personal goal is to observe the process and ask clarifying questions so that I can grow as a leader in this organization.

### 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.

While on the Board, I wish to add my BIPOC voice to its plans, processes, vision, and mission. My own career mission is to advocate for BIPOC, diversity, equity, inclusion, and access, and I hope to utilize my strengths and experience in every aspect of our infrastructure and influence.

### Lindsey Randol

I was inspired to join the Board because I want to be involved and give back to AGPA. I first started attending AGPA as an early career professional. I had just moved back to the United States after earning my doctorate in England. At the time, all my professional networks were in Europe, and I was unsure how I was going to feel connected here in the states.



After several years of attending and presenting at AGPA Connect, I was honored to receive the first iScholarship, a technology-focused award that provides three years of AGPA Connect and mentorship. My mentor, Robert Hsiung, MD, generously supported me, and through my connection with him and others, AGPA now feels like my professional home.

I know how important it can be to have financial support and mentorship in this profession. As a new Board Member, I hope to support others, particularly new professionals and colleagues from historically marginalized groups, to access AGPA Connect, build lasting connections, and find a professional home at AGPA.

### Kathy Rider

I am 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.



I want to be a positive link in the bridge for the Foundation to be more inclusive. Moving forward means listening to all voices and working together to further the goals of scholarship, research, agency training, community outreach, and our Affiliate Societies, as well as underwriting AGPA programs and technology. I believe that by strengthening the partnerships with AGPA members and the Affiliate Societies, the work of the Foundation Board will fulfill the mission of the Group Foundation.

### 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 give myself time to learn about the group I am joining before I push or sometimes even develop my own agenda. I have a general sense that our methods of



*Continued on back page*

**2022 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED HERE ARE FROM JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2022**

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# 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:

- **Leonardo 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 Psychodynamic Group Theory** were given to **Les Greene, PhD, CGP, DFLAGPA**, 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 Psychotherapy*, 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 scholarships 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 scholarship recipients and programs at AGPA Connect, as well as for a list our generous donors who make the programs possible.

## LEGACY SOCIETY

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">Ramon Alonso</a>                         | <a href="#">Barbara Keezell</a>                   |
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| <a href="#">Jeffrey Hudson &amp; Robert Blodgett</a> |   |

**MEET YOUR GROUP FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP** *Continued from front page*

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 anti-racist 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, equity 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 [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org).

### Continuing Board Members

- Maryetta Andrews-Sachs, MA, LICSW, CGP, FAGPA
- Gary Burlingame, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA
- Connie Concannon, LCSW, DFAGPA
- Robert Hsiung, MD
- Barbara Ilfeld, MSN, RNCS, CGP-R, FAGPA
- Gloria Kahn, EdD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA
- Cheryl Kalter, PhD, LPC, CGP
- Molyn Leszcz, MD, FRCPC, CGP, DFAGPA
- Mary Nicholas, PhD, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA
- Rhea Pledger, MA, LPC, CGP
- Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA
- Keith Rand, LMFT, CGP, FAGPA (retiring as Vice-Chair)
- Kathy Rider, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA (incoming Vice-Chair)
- Phyllis Siegel, Esq.
- Angela Moore Stephens, CAE
- Karen Travis, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA
- Kathleen Ulman, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA

### New Board Members

- Helen Chao, MSW
- Jacquelin Darby, PhD, CGP
- Shelley J. Firestone, MD, CGP, FAGPA
- Enrique Ortiz, PsyD
- Lindsey Randol, PsychD, LPC
- Gil Spielberg, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA
- Lorraine Wodiska, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA

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