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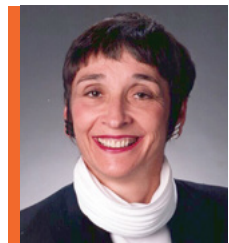
Group Foundation Awards Celebrate Those Making a Difference in the World Using Groups The Dr. Robert H. Klein Social Responsibility Award and the Group Foundation Humanitarian Award

Maryetta Andrews-Sachs, MA, LICSW, CGP, AGPA-F, Group Assets Editor

Decades ago, I had the opportunity to hear Margaret Mead speak, and one of her comments has since been a guide for me. She said, "Individuals and groups are effective in as much as they carve out a sphere of influence that is neither too large nor too small."

Robert H. Klein Social Responsibility Award

The Robert H. Klein Social Responsibility Award is presented annually at AGPA Connect to an AGPA member, group of members, an Affiliate Society, or an affiliated organization of mental health professionals who has provided an exceptional service that ultimately benefits the public-at-large. Both of our Social Responsibility Award winners—Bonnie Buchele, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DF, and Haim Weinberg, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F—and our Humanitarian Award winner—Reginald Dwayne Betts, MFA, JD—have carved out impressive spheres of influence and are well deserving of these awards.



Bonnie Buchele

Bonnie Buchele, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DF, started focusing on the treatment of trauma in the 1970s and has been a trailblazer in developing trauma treatment, especially in groups. She was beginning to work on the treatment of trauma before it was fully appreciated as being an area of clinical

specialization. When she became President of AGPA, 9/11 occurred. Dr. Buchele worked with Harold Bernard, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DLF, and others to organize AGPA's clinical response to that huge social trauma. Her areas of expertise included the impacts of doing this type of work on providers and the need to protect against secondary traumatization, as well as how to reduce vulnerability to that. Her collaboration with Robert Klein, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DLF, also started about this time, beginning a long period of developing trauma treatment protocols, which she continues to do to this day.

Dr. Buchele is the author of more than 50 publications, as well as co-author/co-editor of several books in the field of group trauma treatment. She has been teaching, mentoring, and presenting across the world and has distinguished herself as a champion of traumatized communities.

Leo Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, FAACP, CGP, AGPA-F, stated in his nomination letter that "What has most relevance to her receiving the Dr. Robert H. Klein Social Responsibility Award from the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is her lifelong dedication to volunteering for initiatives that have high moral and ethical values, meaningful causes that promote social justice and/or for those who are traumatized." In her letter of nomination, Suzanne Phillips, PsyD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DF, wrote: "Social responsibility takes many forms, and Dr. Bonnie Buchele combines many. She is a leader capable of combining policy and care of people, a mental health professional who has combined scholarship with mentorship, and a caring person who has and continues to foster the ability of AGPA to make a difference in people's lives." Bonnie said Bob Klein would be "tickled pink" to hear she was receiving this award now endowed by his family.

Another key aspect of Bonnie's extensive social responsibility in advancing mental health is through her serving in key leadership roles in three national mental health organizations. In addition to serving as AGPA President,

she has held many different leadership roles in our organization. She also served in leadership in the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes and is currently President-Elect of the American Psychoanalytic Association.



Haim Weinberg

Haim Weinberg, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F, also greatly deserves this award for multiple reasons. First, he has done remarkable work extending the reach of group psychotherapy around the world. His reach has included trainings in Iran, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Israel, Brazil, and Japan, to name

a few. He stated: "Our tendency is to see us and them—to divide the world into enemies and friends. In group, we try to create a dialogue." Dr. Weinberg also stated that he has "a hidden mission" to teach democracy, as well as group therapy, to parts of the world most of us don't think about. He recruited excellent group therapists from all over the world to assist in these efforts, including his wife Martha Gilmore, PhD, CGP, AGPA-LF, and other AGPA members. A remarkable part of these experiences was that he was able to adjust his perspective depending upon the cultural needs and learned responses to authority of the people he was working with.

Among the many letters of nomination for this award are letters from the Ensan Psychoanalytic Group and the Hamkavan Group-Analytic Psychotherapy Group, both based in Tehran, which express tremendous appreciation for the trainings Dr. Weinberg established there. One letter stated that "Iranian therapists feel quite isolated in the world nowadays, due to political bans. The fact that an American team, led by Dr. Weinberg, was ready to teach us, made us feel less isolated and brought back our faith in collegial collaboration beyond borders or politics. We believe that Dr. Weinberg has made exceptional advances in bridging multiculturalism and group therapy. He has a steadfast work ethic, high integrity, and makes continuous contributions to the field." Dr. Weinberg noted that two recent trainings in Iran occurred while bombs were dropping on their country, and they were being taught by an Orthodox Jew! This is a typical example of his capacity to adjust Western theories and concepts to yet another culture, being very respectful and sensitive to that culture's explicit and implicit norms, especially around family, authority, gender, and intimate relationships.

Dr. Weinberg has also been a visionary regarding the practice of online therapy. He established and moderated the Group Psychotherapy Online Discussion Forum in 1995. This space connects more than 350 clinicians from all over the world, providing a unique opportunity for training group therapists. From 2009 to 2018, he developed a unique international online doctoral program that focused on group therapy, serving students from Israel, China, Singapore, and Indonesia.

An active member of 10 professional organizations including AGPA, he has served as faculty in 16 professional institutions over the years. He continues to present workshops worldwide and has contributed to 94 professional publications, including nine books.

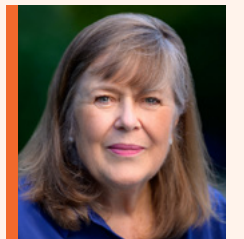
I am incredibly impressed by the breadth of this year's

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WELCOME TO THE NEW GROUP ASSETS EDITOR

Maryetta Andrews-Sachs, MA, LICSW, CGP, AGPA-F

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead



Maryetta Andrews-Sachs

It has taken a while for me to fully appreciate the important mission of the Group Foundation. Raising funds for scholarships, research, and extending our community outreach are key components of our mission. Also, at a time when DEI initiatives are being cancelled, the Foundation Board strongly supports ours, as we want to invest in a diverse and culturally responsive mental health community and workforce and focus on anti-racism work. To move all this important work forward, people must step up, so I am happy to step into this role. Please feel free to contact me via the Group Foundation office at dfeirman@agpa.org if you have questions, ideas, or any concerns for our Board. It takes a village, and all of you are a part of our AGPA/Group Foundation village.

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GROUP FOUNDATION AWARDS CELEBRATE THOSE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD USING GROUPS

Continued from front page

Robert H. Klein Social Responsibility Award winners' contributions to our field. They both stand tall as group therapy champions and are most worthy of our respect as role models and contributors to our field.

Group Foundation Humanitarian Award



Photo Credit: Giancarlo Valentine
Reginald Dwayne Betts

The Group Foundation Humanitarian Award is presented to an esteemed individual or organization whose work provides vitally needed services to a community. This year, **Reginald Dwayne Betts, MFA, JD**, an American poet, legal scholar, educator, and prison reform advocate, is being awarded the Humanitarian Award for his founding Freedom Reads. Having been imprisoned from age 16 for nine years for carjacking, he started reading and writing poetry while incarcerated. Upon release, he earned a college degree and then an MFA in Creative Writing from Warren Wilson College and a Yale law degree. He served on President Obama's Coordinating Council of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2018, and a MacArthur Fellowship in 2021. Currently, Mr. Betts is working on a PhD in law at Yale University.

Mr. Betts started Freedom Reads in 2020, a first-of-its-kind organization that inspires and confronts what

prison does to the spirit. It creates handcrafted bookcases in prisons, transforming cellblocks into Freedom Libraries, which become a locus of conversation and community. The Freedom Libraries are objects of beauty, crafted by teams that include people who have served time in prison. To date, 419 Freedom Libraries have been created across the U.S. "If you want a map to freedom, it begins with a book," says Mr. Betts. Foundation Chair Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F, noted that it is particularly relevant to the mission of the Group Foundation that so much of the work Freedom Reads is doing is by gathering people together in groups, as evidenced by the book circles created with this endeavor.

This is a country with nearly two million people incarcerated in state or federal prisons and local jails, the largest known prison population in the world. For us to fully support such an important effort as Freedom Reads feels vital to our mission to enhance mental health. You can read more about this exceptional program at freedomreads.org.

All award recipients will be recognized at AGPA Connect 2025 during the Awards Ceremony taking place on Wednesday, March 5, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, California. We hope you will attend to recognize all of these outstanding individuals for the work they are doing using group to help change lives.

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