



AMERICAN GROUP  
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION  
GROUP FOUNDATION  
FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH  
INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR  
CERTIFICATION OF GROUP  
PSYCHOTHERAPISTS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GROUP FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH AND AUSTIN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT FUND IN MEMORY OF JAY ERWIN-GROTSKY MAY 27, 2021

**NEW YORK, July 27, 2021**—The Group Foundation for Advancing is pleased to announce the establishment of an endowed program in the name of Jay Erwin-Grotsky, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA (1955-2017). Following the loss of Jay, an incredibly driven and important member of the group therapy community nationally and locally, the Austin Group Psychotherapy Society worked with the Group Foundation and Jay's friends and colleagues to establish the Jay Erwin-Grotsky Memorial Fund.

The fund serves to honor Jay and his steadfast devotion to group psychotherapy, community and interpersonal growth by supporting an annual program at the AGPA Connect Annual Meeting in Jay's name. The program will be in areas about which Jay was passionate, including the LGBTQ+ community, with special care and concern for adolescents, and the use of modern analytic theory in groups. It seems only fitting, with Jay's notability as a leader in the organizations and his commitment to group therapy education, that he be honored and remembered in this way.

Jay was an esteemed member, presenter and leader of AGPA, the Austin Group Psychotherapy Society (AGPS) and the Center for Group Studies (CGS), as well as the co-founder of *Out Youth*, an Austin-based non-profit providing services to LGBTQ+ youth and their allies throughout Central Texas since the 1990s. He served in countless leadership positions for more than 20 years supporting AGPS, including President, Board member and Institute leader.

In Jay's own words...*"I have been involved with Austin Group Psychotherapy Society and AGPA since I entered practice and consider them to be my professional home."*

"Jay's role as a valued member and leader in both the local and national therapeutic group community as an AGPA Fellow and Certified Group Psychotherapist speak to his dedication to community advocacy and leadership," says Darryl L. Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA, Chairman of the Group Foundation Board of Directors. "We are honored to have worked with the Austin GPS to establish this fund in his memory."

For more information, contact the Group Foundation at (877) 668-AGPA (2472) or [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org) or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

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### *About AGPA and the Group Foundation*

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.

The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is a philanthropic organization that is committed to the fact that "Groups Change Lives" and believes in the power of group interventions to improve people's quality of life. The Group Foundation supports group psychotherapy education, research, training, and information dissemination for the benefit of the public and professional communities. Among the Foundation's most vital roles is the recognition of excellence, promise, and vision by honoring those individuals and groups who have demonstrated these qualities with awards and scholarships.

### *About Austin Group Psychotherapy Society*

The Austin Group Psychotherapy Society (AGPS) is an interdisciplinary organization of psychologists, social workers, counselors, and psychiatrists who share a commitment to continuing professional development and to excellence in the practice of group psychotherapy. Austin GPS is an Affiliate of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) and has gained national recognition for the quality of our training opportunities. Our trainings and social events are designed to mentor new professionals and students, expand the knowledge and clinical skills of all members, and enrich and rejuvenate established practitioners. As a society, we are committed to the promotion of group work as a powerful therapy for psychological change.

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