



March 2 - 7
New York City and Virtual
#Connect2026 **2026**

Group Life: Holding Space for Deeper Connection in Complex Times

Special Institute

Monday, March 2

Two-Day Institute

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 3–4

Three-Day Conference

Thursday-Saturday, March 5–7



About AGPA Connect 2026

AGPA Connect 2026 offers participants across mental health disciplines the opportunity to expand their knowledge and clinical effectiveness in group psychotherapy. The program provides pathways to develop new approaches, refine therapeutic methods, engage with current research and theory, and exchange clinical wisdom with colleagues. It also offers opportunities to connect with a multidisciplinary professional community that supports and strengthens one's work with groups.

Program Structure

AGPA Connect is composed of three major program components, each designed to enhance learning in different ways:

- **One-Day Special Institute** (Monday, March 2)
- **Two-Day Institute** (Tuesday–Wednesday, March 3–4)
Small-group training emphasizing experiential learning and personal exploration of group dynamics.
- **Three-Day Conference** (Thursday–Saturday, March 5–7)
A wide range of workshops, open sessions, and scientific presentations addressing contemporary clinical, theoretical, and research developments in group psychotherapy.

In-Person and Virtual Participation Tracks

- **In-Person Track:** Held in New York City at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, the in-person track includes face-to-face group experiences offered in a variety of formats.
- **Virtual Track:** The virtual track consists of live, fully interactive sessions conducted via Zoom, allowing participants to engage face-to-face with faculty and colleagues in real time.
- **Live-Streaming:** All plenary sessions will be livestreamed and available to both in-person and virtual participants.

Who Should Attend?

AGPA Connect welcomes:

- Mental health professionals who work with or have an interest in groups
- Practitioners seeking to deepen their understanding of group dynamics
- Clinicians wishing to expand the range of populations and settings in which they conduct groups
- Early-career and seasoned professionals looking for high-quality continuing education, consultation, and collegial connection

Why Should You Attend?

- Learn from nationally and internationally recognized faculty
- Earn **over 30 continuing education credits** in your discipline
- Strengthen your clinical skills with strategies you can apply immediately
- Engage with a diverse menu of offerings designed to enhance both foundational and advanced competencies
- Step away from day-to-day demands and return reinvigorated, focused, and inspired
- Build meaningful professional relationships that support your ongoing development

What You Will Learn!

After participating, attendees will be able to:

1. **Identify, review, and integrate** fundamental group dynamics concepts into their clinical work
2. **Compare and differentiate** major theoretical frameworks within group psychotherapy
3. **Conduct groups effectively** across a variety of practice settings and with diverse populations
4. **Apply evidence-based principles** relevant to contemporary group treatment

How to Register!

- Registration is available through the AGPA Member Portal.
- All registrants must have an account; instructions for creating one are provided on the site.
- Once your account is active, you may proceed directly to the registration form.
- If you need assistance, please contact us at 212-297-2190 or info@agpa.org.

Welcome to AGPA Connect 2026—the Annual Institute and Conference of the American Group Psychotherapy Association!

We are delighted to have you with us—whether you are joining us here in New York City or participating virtually—for a week devoted to learning, connection, and the transformative potential of group psychotherapy. From March 2–7, our community comes together once again to deepen our practice, expand our thinking, and celebrate the extraordinary work we do in groups.



Lorraine Wodiska



Ginger Sullivan



Brenda Boatswain

This year's program brings together a rich blend of immersive institutes, innovative workshops, and compelling presentations designed to spark insight, strengthen clinical skills, and nourish your professional growth. Whether you are attending for the first time or returning as a long-time colleague, we hope you find space this week to stretch, reflect, and engage with ideas that challenge and inspire you.

Community is at the heart of AGPA Connect. Throughout the week, we invite you to make time for the conversations—formal and informal—that sustain us in this work. The connections formed in hallways, over coffee, between sessions, or in the shared learning of group experiences often become some of the most lasting and meaningful parts of the conference. We hope you feel welcomed into a community that values curiosity, courage, belonging, and mutual support.

Being in New York City adds its own special energy to the gathering. Whether you choose to explore its museums, neighborhoods, and performances, or simply enjoy the hum of the city around you, we hope its vitality enriches your time here. For our virtual participants, we are equally grateful for your presence and engagement—you remain an integral part of this community, and we trust you will feel woven into the fabric of the week.

As we begin AGPA Connect 2026, we do so with appreciation for your dedication to the people, groups, and communities you serve. Group psychotherapy is demanding, creative, and profoundly meaningful work, and we hope this conference strengthens your commitment and renews your vision for the year ahead.

Thank you for being with us, and for all that you bring to our field. We are honored to share this week with you and look forward to the discoveries, connections, and growth that await.

With warmest wishes for an inspiring and memorable conference,

Lorraine Wodiska, PhD, CGP, FABBP, AGPA-F
AGPA President

Ginger Sullivan, MA, LPC, CGP, AGPA-F
Brenda Boatswain, PhD, CGP, SHRM-CP
AGPA Connect Co-Chairs

What to look for inside...

We are delighted to share an exciting lineup of presentations and special events at AGPA Connect 2026:

- **Special Institute Presentation** (Monday, March 2): *Scars*, an original stage play written and directed by Percy W. Thomas
- **Sally B. Henry Institute Opening Plenary Address** (Tuesday, March 3): **Joseph Shay, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F** — *Showing Up as a Transformative Act: The Wish to Be Known*
- **Conference Opening Plenary Speaker** (Thursday, March 5): **Danielle Hairston, MD** — *Re-Thinking Youth Mental Health in the Digital Age: Fostering Community, Equity, and Co-Created Wellness*
- **Anne & Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Address** (Friday, March 6): **Leonardo Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, FAACP, CGP, AGPA-F** — *Belonging and the Power of Group in Stressful Times*
- **Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event** (Saturday, March 7): **Sonya Renee Taylor** — *The Body Is Not an Apology: Personal and Collective Liberation*

Just for fun, don't miss two perennial favorites hosted by the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health: the Friday Night Dance Party and the Saturday Luncheon.

Attendance is Affordable...

New Member Discount. If you are not currently an AGPA member and join at the time of registration, you will save more than the difference between member and non-member registration fees. An online membership application is available on our website—we hope you'll join us.

A 35% discount Students, Early Career Professionals, Retirees, and Clinicians/Chaplains working with Active-Duty Military and Veterans are eligible for a 35% registration discount.

Agency/Institutional Multi-Person Registration Discount. A 35% discount is also available for multiple individuals from the same agency/institution. To obtain a discount code, submit a list of registrants on agency letterhead verifying that personnel are full-time or part-time employees whose sole source of income is from the agency. The letter should also confirm the organization's nonprofit status.

(Please note: This discount cannot be combined with other discounts.)

AGPA Connect Scholarships The Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health is offering a wide array of scholarships. Details and application information can be found on our website.

Please consider making a donation to the Scholarship Fund to support broader access to AGPA Connect. You can include a gift on the website.

Program Overview:

All times below are in Pacific time zone

ONE-DAY SPECIAL INSTITUTE	TWO-DAY INSTITUTE		THREE-DAY CONFERENCE		
Monday, March 2	Tuesday, March 3	Wednesday, March 4	Thursday, March 5	Friday, March 6	Saturday, March 7
7:00 AM–5:00 PM Registration	7:00 AM–5:00 PM Registration	7:00 AM–5:00 PM Registration	7:00 AM–5:00 PM Registration	7:00 AM–5:00 PM Registration	7:00 AM–2:00 PM Registration
9:00 AM–12:00 Noon Special Institute Presentations: “SCARS”	8:00–9:00 AM Sally B. Henry Institute Opening Plenary Joseph Shay, PhD, CGP, AGPA-LF “Showing Up as a Transformative Act: The Wish to Be Known”	8:30 AM–11:30 AM General and Specific Focus Process Group Experience Sections	8:15–9:30 AM Conference Opening Plenary Danielle Hairston, MD “Re-Thinking Youth Mental Health in the Digital Age: Fostering Community, Equity, and Co-Created Wellness”	8:15–9:30 AM Anne & Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Leonardo Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, AACP, CGP, AGPA-F “Belonging and the Power of Group in Stressful Times”	8:15–9:15 AM Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event Sonya Renee Taylor “The Body is Not an Apology: Personal and Collective Liberation”
	9:30 AM–12:30 PM General and Specific Focus Process Group Experience Sections		10:00 AM–4:30 PM All-Day Courses and Workshops	10:00 AM–4:30 PM All-Day Courses and Workshops	9:30 AM–12:00 Noon 2 1/2 Hour Workshop & Open Sessions
			10:00 AM–12:30 PM 2 1/2 Hour Workshop & Open Sessions	10:00 AM–12:30 PM 2 1/2 Hour Workshop & Open Sessions	10:30 AM–12:00 Noon 90-Minute Workshops & Open Sessions
12:00 Noon–2:00 PM Lunch	12:30–2:30 PM Lunch	11:30 AM–1:30 PM Lunch	12:30–2:00 PM Lunch & SIG Meetings	12:30–2:00 PM Lunch & SIG Meetings	12:00 Noon–2:00 PM Group Foundation Luncheon
2:00–5:00 PM Special Institute Presentations Continue	2:30–5:30 PM General and Specific Focus Process Group Experience Sections	1:30–4:30 PM General and Specific Focus Process Group Experience Sections	2:00–4:30 PM 2 1/2 Hour Workshop & Open Sessions	2:00–4:30 PM 2 1/2 Hour Workshop & Open Sessions	2:15–3:45 PM Large Group
5:15–6:15PM 12-Step Recovery Meeting	5:45–6:45PM 12-Step Recovery Meeting	4:45–5:30 PM Institute Participant Evaluation Meetings	4:45–6:00 PM Large Group	4:45–6:00 PM Large Group	4:00–4:45 PM Conference Participant Evaluation Meeting
		5:45–6:45 PM 12-Step Recovery Meeting	6:15–7:15 PM 12-Step Recovery Meeting	6:15–7:15 PM 12-Step Recovery Meeting	4:45–5:45 PM 12-Step Recovery Meeting
	7:00 PM No Host Dinner for New Members & CGPs and First-Time Attendees	6:00–7:30 PM Tri-Organizational Awards Ceremony	6:15–7:30 PM Membership Community Meeting	6:15–7:30 PM Memorial Session	4:45–6:00 PM Closing Reception
				9:00 PM–12:00 AM Group Foundation Dance Party	

Special Institute Presentation Monday, March 2, 9:00 AM–12:00 Noon and 2:00–5:00 PM Eastern

SI-1. Scars

An original stage play written and directed by Percy W. Thomas



This Special Institute uses the theatrical performance of "Scars", as a clinical entry point into exploring intergenerational trauma, substance use, abandonment, grief, and redemption within family systems. Through a combination of performance, structured dialogue with actors, and facilitated group processing, participants will deepen their understanding of complex psychological themes relevant to clinical practice.



Set in an economically distressed Baltimore neighborhood, "Scars" tells the story of a family navigating deep generational wounds, addiction, and loss. Following the performance, participants will engage in a facilitated discussion with the cast to explore character motivations, emotional themes, and systemic dynamics. Subsequent audience processing groups will further integrate the theatrical content with clinical applications.

Continuing Education Credits for Special Institute Presentations: 6.0 credits/.6 units

Sally B. Henry Institute Opening Plenary Tuesday, March 3, 8:00–9:00 AM

Showing Up as a Transformative Act: The Wish to Be Known

Featured Speaker: Joseph Shay, PhD, CGP, AGPA-LF

Vulnerable participation in an Institute offers a portal to enhanced self-awareness as well as a moment to allow being known by others. We all carry this longing to be known although achieving it is complicated. It begins with showing up as oneself. This seems straightforward but given our protective habit of sending a "representative" who performs a version of us, it is not. The advantage of this armor, of not exactly being our real selves, is safety. The cost is lack of genuine connection. Everyone has to navigate this balance for themselves. Simply to observe how you navigate the balance increases self-awareness. What do you value? What do you fear? What is the obstacle to trusting others to know who you are? These questions also animate our group members, so observing ourselves may provide insight into their challenges. How we address our own challenges may offer guidance into how to help them with theirs. In my presentation, I will try to show up and share experiences including what has made it difficult to show up. Also, I will suggest ways to approach the Institute to create space for deeper encounters. To allow ourselves to be truly known invites authentic connection that can be transformative.



Joseph Shay is a psychologist in private practice in Cambridge. He is on the staff of the joint McLean Hospital/Massachusetts General Hospital training program and has an appointment in the Department of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School. He is also on the faculty of the Northeastern Society for Group Psychotherapy and the Psychodynamic Couple and Family Institute of New England. Joe has co-edited *Odysseys in Psychotherapy* and *Complex Dilemmas in Group Therapy* and has co-authored *Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy* (4th and 5th editions). He has published widely in the fields of group therapy and couples therapy and serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*. Joe is a Life Fellow of the American Group Psychotherapy Association and was twice awarded the *Psychotherapy Supervision Award* from the McLean/MGH residents in Adult Psychiatry.

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The Two-Day Institute is designed for clinical professionals who meet the requirements of at least a master's degree in a mental health profession and who have clinical psychotherapy experience. However, many sections of the Institute welcome psychiatric residents and graduate students in mental health degree programs as well as mental health workers who work in a range of human service settings. Please register for a section consistent with your experience. The Institute is scheduled over two full days: Tuesday, March 3, 9:30 AM–5:30 PM and Wednesday, March 4, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM (Eastern). Registration will only be accepted for the full two days and registrants will be expected to attend both days, including the Sally B. Henry Institute Opening Plenary Session on Tuesday. Continuing Education credit will not be awarded for partial attendance. Devoted to small group experiential teaching, these two-day groups are led by carefully selected experienced instructors. The secure environment of these small groups allows for rich cognitive and emotional learning about group processes and oneself as well as an opportunity for personal and professional renewal.

The Institutes are NOT designed or intended to provide a psychotherapy experience. It is important for registrants to create a safe learning experience for themselves and others by monitoring their level of affective vulnerability and self-disclosure. We encourage participants to focus on their "here-and-now" experience and to be intentional about learning about themselves both as members and leaders as well as enhancing their skills for group facilitation.

The Institute consists of two sections:

■ General Process Group (GPG) Experience Sections:

These small groups provide participants an environment in which to obtain, expand, and retain their skills in conducting group therapy. The group psychotherapy skills gained are important in conducting any group, regardless of its theoretical orientation, time parameter or patient population. GPG sections are essential training and benefit the participants, both personally and professionally. A portion of each GPG will be didactic.

Registration maximum of 12 participants will be accepted per group.

■ Specific Focus Process Group (SFPG) Experience Sections:

These groups offer intensive learning about specific theories and approaches in group treatment. Registrants can pursue current interests in greater depth or learn ways of integrating new approaches and methods into their private practice, clinic, or agency work. Most of the SFPG Sections have extensive experiential components.

Registration maximum (14–20 registrants) has been set by each instructor.

Observation and Evaluation: Institute sections will be observed by Institute Committee members. Registrants will be asked to complete evaluation questionnaires, designed to aid us in continuing to provide high quality meetings, upon conclusion of their attendance at events.

Continuing Education for Two-Day Institute Sections: 13.0 credits/1.30 units

GENERAL PROCESS GROUP EXPERIENCE (GPGE) SECTIONS

I-A. GENERAL PROCESS GROUP EXPERIENCE

Entry Level

Less than 4 years of group psychotherapy leadership experience

Instructors:

- 1 Rita Drapkin, PhD, CGP
- 2 Jennifer Joseph, PsyD, CGP
- 3 Anne McEneaney, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-LF
- 4 Jonathan Stillerman, PhD, CGP
- 5 Barry Wepman, PhD, CGP, AGPA-LF

Intermediate Level

4-9 years of group psychotherapy leadership experience

Instructors:

- 6 John Caffaro, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F & Sophia Chang-Caffaro, PsyD, CGP
- 7 Yair Kramer, PsyD, CGP
- 8 Teresa Lee, MD, FAPA, CGP
- 9 Katherine Mitchell, PsyD, ABPP, CGP
10. Keith Rand, LMFT, CGP, AGPA-F

Advanced Level

10+ years of group psychotherapy leadership experience

Instructors:

- 11 Elaine Cooper, LCSW, PhD, CGP, AGPA-DF
- 12 Esther Stone, MSSW, CGP, AGPA-DLF

I-B. PROCESS GROUP EXPERIENCE SECTION WITH MIXED LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE

Instructors:

- 1 Katharine Barnhill, LCSW, CGP
- 2 Shari Baron, MSN, CNS, CGP, AGPA-DLF
- 3 (VIRTUAL) Robert Berley, PhD, CGP, AGPA-LF
- 4 Lois Friedlander, MA, LMFT, MT/BC, CGP
- 5 Jim O'Hern, LCSW, CGP
- 6 Deborah Sharp, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F
- 7 (VIRTUAL) Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F

I-C1. PROCESS GROUP EXPERIENCE SECTION FOR NEURODIVERSE INDIVIDUALS (MIXED LEVELS)

Instructor:

Karen Cone-Uemura, PhD, CGP

ID-1. Process Group Experience Section with BIPOC Individuals (Mixed Levels)*

Instructors:

Marcée Brennan, PhD, CGP & Miquel Lewis, PsyD, ABPP, CGP

IE-1. Process Group Experience Section with Black Women (Mixed Levels)

Instructors:

Fabiola Desmont, DSW, LMSW & LaTasha Smith, PhD, LCSW, CGP

IF. Two Year Continous Group

Registration for this section assumes attendance at two consecutive AGPA Connect Meetings

Instructors:

1. Kurt L. White, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F
(This is the second year of this group; new participants will not be accepted.)

2. Jamie Moran, MSW, LCSW, CGP
(This is the first year of this group; new participants will be accepted.)

*The group leaders will have a brief check-in with each registrant prior to Connect to ensure a good fit for this group.

OR SPECIFIC FOCUS PROCESS GROUP EXPERIENCE (SFPGE) SECTIONS

II.	Acceptance, Attunement, and Emotional Receptivity: Welcoming the Whole Self in Group Jeffrey Hudson, MEd, LPC, CGP, AGPA-F
III.	Attachment-Focused Somatic Experiencing Group Psychotherapy Carlos Canales, PsyD, CGP, AGPA-F, SEP™
IV.	Attending to Grief When a Marriage Ends: Support for Divorcing or Divorced Therapists Oona Metz, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F
V.	Befriending Your Aggression for Wholeness and Vitality Jeanne Bunker, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F
VI.	Beyond the Algorithm: Creatively Exploring Connection in Times of Unrelenting Technological Change Scott Conkright, PsyD, CGP Matthew Tomatz, LPC, LAC, CGP, AGPA-F
VII.	Chasing Enigma, Risking Desire: The Draw Toward the Other in Group Pamela Nilsson, PhD, CGP
VIII.	(VIRTUAL) Co-Creating Engagement and Intimacy in Complex Times: A Relational Group Perspective Sharon Sagi Berg, MA, CGP Ido Peleg, MD, CGP
IX.	(VIRTUAL) Collaborative Role-Playing Integrative Therapy Group: Using D&D to Focus on the Here-and-Now Sami Chun, PhD
X.	The Cultural Mother in Group Psychotherapy: Deepening Our Engagement with Difference Paul LePhuoc, PhD, CGP
XI.	Dungeons and Therapy: Roleplaying Towards an Interpersonally Flexible Self Vinny Dehili, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F Kathleen DiMatta, PsyD
XII.	Existential Group Therapy: The Space for Deeper Connections Maryetta Andrews-Sachs, MA, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F Faroog Mohyuddin, MD, CGP, AGPA-F, FAPA
XIII.	Exploring Implicit Narratives Using Modern Attachment and Relational Neuroscience Sue Marriott, LCSW, CGP
XIV.	From Disavowed to Allowed: Finding the Authentic Self in Group Suzanne Phillips, PsyD, CGP, ABPP, AGPA-DF Rachelle Rene, PhD, BCB, HSM, CGP, AGPA-F
XV.	From Knowing into Unknowing: A Voyage into the Unconscious Francis Kaklauskas, PsyD, CGP, AGPA-F Elizabeth Olson, PsyD, LCSW
XVI.	Groups in the Workplace: Introductory T-Group Experience for Coaches, Business Leaders, and Consultants Darryl Pure, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F
XVII.	Holding Power, Facing Bias: Strengthening the Group Leader's Valuing Self in Difficult Moments Ellen Wright, PhD
XVIII.	Individuation Across The Lifespan: A Jungian Approach to Group Psychotherapy Justin Hecht, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F
XIX.	Living Out Loud: Attuning the Therapist and Group Leader's Voice Marie Sergent, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F
XX.	Longing for Home: Past Attachments and Reparative Re-Attachments in the Therapy Group Myrna Frank, PhD, CGP
XXI.	Managing Love and Hate in a Time of Social Crisis Ronnie Levine, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DF
XXII.	Process-Oriented Group Therapy by Use of Sandtray Therapy Andrea Grunblatt, PhD
XXIII.	Reconnecting Masculinity: Reworking the Terms of Manhood Randy Dunagan, MS, MFT Thomas Matas, LMFT, CGP
XXIV.	Social Identities, Power and Privilege: How Difference is Essential for Group Cohesion Paul Gitterman, LCSW, MSC, CGP
XXV.	Mattering and Envy in Group Therapy Alan Oxman, LCSW, DSW, CGP
XXVI.	(VIRTUAL) Somatic Process Group: Nervous System Regulation for Resilience and Joy Boaz Feldman, MSc
XXVII.	Systems-Centered Training (SCT): Developing Groups that Transform Our Social Brains Susan Gantt, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DF Dayne Narretta, LCSW, BCD, CGP, AGPA-F
XXVIII.	When Words Are Not Enough in Complex Times: Metaphor in Expressive Arts Step In Daniella Bassis, PsyD, CGP Daniella Bassis, PsyD, CGP

The Conference is held on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, March 5–7 and includes courses, open sessions, limited registration workshops and special presentations on a variety of topics.

SPECIAL PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

Conference Opening Plenary

Thursday, March 5, 8:15–9:30 AM

Re-Thinking Youth Mental Health in the Digital Age: Fostering Community, Equity, and Co-Created Wellness Session

Danielle Hairston, MD

This presentation examines the complex relationship between social media and adolescent mental health, highlighting the critical gap in adult understanding. Drawing on recent research, we explore how youth utilize digital spaces for both connection and mental health navigation. The discussion focuses on implementing innovative, co-created interventions and community-based models, such as in-school “wellness stores,” to empower adolescents, promote health equity, and improve care accessibility.



Danielle Hairston is an internationally recognized expert and the Psychiatry Training Director at Howard University. As an Inaugural Hopelab HBCU Translational Science Fellow and past APA Black Caucus President, she specializes in mental health equity and cultural humility. Her qualifications are further validated by her work on Racialism and Psychiatry and extensive national speaking on culturally informed treatment, making her an authority on co-creating accessible youth wellness.

Anne & Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary

Friday, March 6, 8:15–9:30 AM

Belonging and the Power of Group in Stressful Times

Leonardo (Leo) Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, FAACP, CGP, AGPA-F

We gather at a time when many are enduring overwhelming stress and mass trauma which can be experienced as unsafe, uncontrollable, and unpredictable. Yet, as a field there is promise since we are uniquely prepared to address these psychological stressors with small groups, large groups and support groups. Factors contributing to successful therapeutic outcomes will be covered including the “magic ingredients” that make groups effective, leadership considerations, incorporating DEIA constructs, and translating trauma. Community involvement and belonging to a professional organization can also play a crucial role in mitigating stress. Core values to enhance organizational cohesion are essential and discussed. Self-care strategies that insulate us from burnout, fatigue, and co-morbid stress and trauma symptoms are reviewed.



Leo Leiderman is a trilingual/tricultural Diplomate in Clinical Psychology and Group Psychology; a Fellow of the Academy of Clinical Psychology; a Fellow of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) and is the Director of Neurofeedback & Psychological Services. He established and was the director of Westchester County's first bilingual/bicultural mental health treatment program for almost 20 years. He

served on many boards of directors including the 18th Congressional district Hispanic Advisory and the Westchester county Hispanic Advisory boards. He has lectured extensively nationally and internationally and has made guest appearances on both radio and television on topics related to bilingual/bicultural mental health and trauma. He co-edited the book **Advances in Group Therapy Trauma Treatment (2025)** by Leiderman & Buchele, published peer reviewed articles, chapters, and columns considerably. He received the Alonso Excellence in Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy and the Social Responsibility awards from the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health. He is the past-Treasurer of AGPA, past-Editor of **The Group Circle** and on the editorial board of the **International Journal of Group Psychotherapy**.

Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event

Saturday, March 7, 8:15–9:15 AM

The Body is Not an Apology: Personal and Collective Liberation

Sonya Renee Taylor

Across all Sonya's work and writing is the loving belief that the foundations for building a new world and fostering our personal and collective liberation requires radical love for our bodies and the bodies of others, radical approaches to healing and justice, and radical answers to the deepest and most pressing human questions. As Sonya shares, “Using the term ‘radical’ elevates the reality that our society requires a drastic political, economic, and social reformation in the ways in which we deal with bodies and body difference.” As we continue to hold space for deeper connection during complex times, join us for a transformative conversation with Sonya Renee Taylor that explores how we can open ourselves to seeking radical answers to the world's most pressing and painful questions, and how we can utilize group psychotherapy to do so.



Sonya Renee Taylor is a New York Times bestselling author, activist, and global thought leader on racial justice, body liberation, and transformational change. She is the founder of The Body Is Not an Apology (TBINAA), an international education and media platform advancing radical self-love as a pathway to personal and collective liberation. Her acclaimed book, *The Body Is Not an Apology: The Power of Radical Self-Love*, has inspired an international movement and reshaped conversations on bodies, identity, and justice.

A sought-after speaker and award-winning artist, Sonya brings decades of work rooted in the intersections of healing, social justice, and transformational change. Her international journey keeps her deeply engaged in a broad spectrum of issues—including racial justice, mental health, reproductive freedom, and spiritual healing—and she continues to share her wisdom across the globe as a renowned speaker, artist, and educator.

2026 Conference Schedule

Complete Course Descriptions on AGPA's Web Site: agpa.org

EVENT FORMATS

COURSES: These courses are designed to cover a variety of topics in-depth. One-Day Courses meet in two sections for one full day. Two-Day Courses meet in four sections for two full days. Participants must attend all sessions in order to receive continuing education credits. **Continuing Education: One-Day: 5.0 credits/.5 units, Two-Day: 10.0 credits/1.0 units**

OPEN SESSIONS (300 SERIES): These meetings will be presented in a variety of formats, including panels, papers and demonstrations. Audience participation and exchange with the presenters is encouraged.

2 1/2 Hour Sessions: 2.5 credits/.25 units

90-Minute Sessions: 1.5 credits/.15 units

WORKSHOPS (1-100 Series): All-day and half-day meetings provide a context in which participants exchange information among themselves and with the chairperson. These meetings are designed for varying levels of experience including master workshops for senior clinicians and usually include both didactic and experiential learning. Check designations for beginning and master levels (for senior clinicians).

Continuing Education: All-day: 5.0 credits/.5 units; Half-day: 2.5 credits/.25 units; 90-Minute: 1.5 credits/.15 units

Complete Course Descriptions on AGPA's Web Site: agpa.org

Thursday, March 5

Early Morning Events

7:00 – 8:00 AM		New Member/CGP, First-Time Attendee Breakfast
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Conference Opening Plenary Session

8:15 AM – 9:30 AM	P-TH	Re-Thinking Youth Mental Health in the Digital Age: Fostering Community, Equity, and Co-Created Wellness Session <i>Danielle Hairston, MD</i>		
Two-Day Courses	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM & 2:00 – 4:30 PM	C1	Reel Connection, Real Resistance: A Film-Based Group Leadership Learning Lab (Day 1) <i>Elliot Zeisel, PhD, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-DF; Chap Attwell, MD, MPH; Katherine Mitchell, PsyD, ABPP, CGP; Reginald Murph, MA; David Rothauser, MA, MS, LP, NCPsyA; Elizabeth Schneider, MA, JD: Audry Steele, MA, LPC</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	C2	Complex PTSD – Neuroscience in Action in Group Therapy; Attunement, Regulation and Co-Regulation (Day 1) <i>Kristin Shanahan, MA, LPC-S, CGP</i>	Intermediate	N/L
All-Day Courses	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM & 2:00 – 4:30 PM	C3	Core Principles of Group Psychotherapy Course (Part II) <i>Katherine Zwick, MA, LPCC, CGP; Karin Bustamante, PhD, CGP; Latoya Griffin, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Introductory	N/L
	C4	Psychodrama: The Magic of Growth and Change <i>Shelley Firestone, MD, PAT, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Introductory	N/L
	C5	Adolescent Group Psychotherapy 101: Returning to the Basics <i>Seth Aronson PsyD, CGP, AGPA-F; Thomas Hurster MSS, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F; Andrew Pojman EdD, CGP, AGPA-F, EdD</i>	Introductory	N/L
	C6v	(VIRTUAL) Basic Principles In Group Analytic Psychotherapy: Anniversary Course marking ten years since publication of 'From The Couch To The Circle: Group-Analytic Psychotherapy In Practice <i>John Schlapobersky BA, MSC, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Advanced	10+
All-Day Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM & 2:00 – 4:30 PM	1a	"How could you think that?": Understanding our varied responses to incidents of racism <i>Christina Douyon, PhD; Amanda Weber, PhD</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	2a	Do I matter?: Exploring the dynamics of mattering in group psychotherapy <i>Aaron Black PhD, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Intermediate	10+
	3a	The Psychology of Money: Group Pathways to Motivation, Emotion, Financial Trauma and Financial Well-Being <i>Richard Kahler, MS, CFT™, CeFT, CIFSP, CFP; Özge Kantaş, PhD, CP, PAT</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	4a	Longing to Belong: Reaching for Connection and Intimacy <i>Allan Sheps, MSW, RSW, CGP, AGPA-F; Joan-Dianne Smith, MSW, RSW, AGPA-F</i>	Advanced	10+
	5a	Reclaiming the Chair: Returning to Group Leadership After Motherhood (Focus on identity integration, role transition, and professional re-entry) <i>Heather Frank, PsyD, CGP</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	6a	In Two Roles, In Many Minds: The Dual Identity of the Analyst as Group Therapist <i>Stavros Charalambides, Diploma, MSc, CGP; Konstantinos Dritsoulas; Michael Korson MFT, Psychoanalyst; Gaea Logan, LPC-S, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Advanced	N/L

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2026 Conference Schedule

Complete Course Descriptions on AGPA's Web Site: agpa.org

Thursday, March 5

2.5 Hour Morning Open Sessions	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	301	Navigating the Storm: The Therapist's Use of Self to Meet the Moment Joseph Shay, PhD, CGP, AGPA-LF; Kavita Avula AGPA-F; Janice Morris, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F; Annie Weiss, LICSW, CGP, AGPA-F	Intermediate	N/L
	302	Mindful Steps 2.0: Culturally Responsive Group Process for Parenting Interventions Integrating Mindfulness, Attachment, and DBT Approaches Mary Baldwin, PsyD; Ayesha Bhatia, MPH; Christina Sánchez Quinata, LMSW	Introductory	N/L
	303	Leading therapy groups on a short-term inpatient psychiatric unit Richard Lautenbach, PhD, CGP; Kimberly Cimino, PsyD; Melanie Davenport, MA; Melissa Jourdain, PsyD; Callie Jowers, PhD; Alexandra Recchia, PsyD; Zoe Rice, PsyD	Introductory	N/L
2.5 Hour Morning Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	7	Empathy and Its Obstacles: Exploring Connection and Resistance in Groups Marian Margulies, PhD, CGP; Marc Schramm, PsyD, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	8	Oedipus in Most of Us: Wounded Parents and the Therapists They Raised Allen Lambert, MSSW, LCSW-S, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	9	Applying the Hero's Journey to Group Therapy Greg Crosby, MA, LPC, CGP, AGPA-F	Introductory	N/L
	10	Against Depth: Richard Rorty's Pragmatism and Group Psychotherapy Arjan Berkeljon PhD, ABPP	Intermediate	N/L
	11	Working with Aggression and Longing in Groups: A Modern Analytic Approach Laura Kasper, PhD, CGP; Shanon Sitkin, MA, LMFT, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	12	Adolescent Countertransference in Groups of All Ages Eleni Kanelloupolou, PhD, CGP; Sara Schreiber LCSW, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	13	We are Here for You: Talking Together About Prevention and Postvention of Group Member Suicide Tony Sheppard PsyD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F; Lorraine B. Wodiska, PhD, ABPP-F, CGP, AGPA-F	Intermediate	N/L
	14	Process Groups for Neurodiverse Adolescents and Young Adults Lawrence Shweky, MA, LCSW, CGP	Intermediate	10+
	15	Thinking About the Unthinkable: Contemplating Aging and Retirement Rachel Ginzberg, PsyD; Elizabeth Shapiro, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F	Introductory	4+
	16	Group Therapy for Patients with Psychosis Nick Kanas, MD, AGPA-F	Introductory	N/L
	17v	(VIRTUAL) Excitement in Deprivation: Unveiling Silent Resistances Scott Phillips, LMFT, CGP; Donna Rich, LCSW	Intermediate	N/L
	18v	(VIRTUAL) The Narcissistic Defense: What the Inner Critic May Be Trying to Tell You Laura Ebady, PsyD, CGP	Introductory	N/L
90-Minute Morning Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	19-5	When to Share, When to Hold: A Group Discussion on Therapeutic Silence and Disclosure Readiness James Zuiches, MBA, PhD, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	20-5	Bringing Sex Out of the Shadows: How to Bring Sexual Disorders and Erotic Challenges into Your Supervision Sari Cooper LCSW; Kelly Ghweinem, LCSW	Intermediate	N/L
	21-5v	(VIRTUAL) Communities of Disagreement: Working in the Here-and-Now with Politically Diverse Groups Daniel Diamond, LCSW, LICSW; Jacob Winkler, MSW, LCSW, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	22-5v	(VIRTUAL) Making Meaning: Spirituality and Mental Health Group Facilitation Hadassah Margolis, MSW, LICSW	Introductory	N/L
Lunch Break – 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM				
SIG Meetings – 12:45 – 1:45 PM				

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Thursday, March 5

2.5 Hour Afternoon Open Sessions	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
2:00–4:30 PM	304	The Group Therapist's Guilt: Enactments and Transformations <i>Brynolf Lyon, PhD, CGP; Hilary Curtis, PsyD</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	305	Experiences from Connect 2020 and the COVID-19 Pandemic Among Group Therapists <i>Angelynn Hermes, LCSW, CGP; Evan Perlo, LMFT, CGP; Caryn Zaner, PsyD</i>	Introductory	N/L
	306	Climate in Therapy: Movie Screening and Discussion <i>Anna Graybeal, PhD, CGP; Richard Beck, LCSW, BCD, CGP, AGPA-F; Janet Castellini, MSS, LCSW, CGP, NCPsyA</i>	Introductory	N/L
2.5 Hour Afternoon Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
2:00–4:30 PM	23	Hidden Diversity: The Invisible Oppressor of Classism <i>Cindy Aron MSW, CGP, AGPA-F; Sydney LeFay, DO</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	24	Group Process and the Creation of a More Cooperative and Supportive Community through Mutual Understanding, Diversity Inclusion, and Meditational Consciousness <i>Allen Levy, PhD, LCSW</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	25	An Introduction to TableTop Role Play Games (TT-RPG) as a Group Therapy Modality <i>Mary Darden-Robinson, LPC, PhD; Casandra Jones, LPC; Abie Tremblay, PhD, LPC</i>	Introductory	N/L
	26	Am I my siblings keeper? An exploration of sibling dynamics and how they influence the people we become and the roles that we take in groups <i>Yair Kramer, PsyD, CGP; Brett Kociol, PsyD; Terri Lipkin, PsyD; Benjamin Mueller, PsyD</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	27	Making Contact: The Mind-Body-Skin-Psyche Connection in Group Psychotherapy <i>Stacy Nakell LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	28	Grappling with the Unknown: Group Process and UAP(Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon) <i>Simon Bresler, LCSW, CGP</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	29	Employing The Unique Properties of Group Therapy to Talk about Sexual Feelings & Problems: Dealing With Member & Leader Resistance <i>Laurie Nisco, PhD; Kenneth Pollock, PhD, CGP</i>	Advanced	4+
	30	Integrative GroupTherapy: Breaking Barriers or A Bridge Too Far? <i>Jeffrey Kleinberg, PhD, CGP, AGPA-DF</i>	Introductory	N/L
	31	Neuropsychoanalytic Considerations for Clinical Group Practice <i>Elizabeth Olson, PsyD, LCSW</i>	Intermediate	10+
	32	Two is a Group: Using Your Modern Psychoanalytic Group Therapy Skills to Treat Couples <i>Teresa Snell, LCSW, CGP</i>	Intermediate	4+
	33v	(VIRTUAL) Your Professional Will: The Ethical Care of Your Practice and Yourself <i>Ann Steiner, PhD, MFT, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Intermediate	N/L
90-Minute Afternoon Open Sessions	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
3:00–4:30 PM	307-5	The Psychology of Prejudice as a Tool in the Development of The Self <i>Jason Marx, PsyD, LCSW</i>	Advanced	N/L
	308-5	Attachment in Action: Cultivating Epistemic Trust, Emotional Vulnerability, and Mentalization in Group Psychotherapy <i>Cheri Marmarosh, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F; Kelly Gleischman, MPSy; Serene Kaggal, MPSy</i>	Introductory	N/L
	309-5v	(VIRTUAL) MASTER'S CLASS: God Takes Care of Children and Fools: Reflections From a Sharecropper's Daughter <i>Mary McRae, EdD</i>	Intermediate	10+
Large Group	Session #	Title & Presenter		
4:45–6:00 PM	LG-1	Large Group <i>Leonard Levis, PhD; Diana Castañeda, LPC; Laurie Nisco, PhD; Jaime Romo, EdD</i>		
6:15–7:30 PM		Membership Community Meeting <i>Presiding: Lorraine Wodiska, AGPA President Transition of Presidency to Leo Leiderman</i>		

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Friday, March 6

Early Morning Events

7:00–8:00 AM	Fellows Breakfast			
Anne & Ramon Alonso Presidential Plenary Session				
8:15 AM–9:30 AM	P-FR	Belonging and the Power of Group in Stressful Times Leonardo (Leo) Leiderman, PsyD, ABPP, FAACP, CGP, AGPA-F		
Two-Day Courses	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM–12:30 PM & 2:00–4:30 PM	C1	Reel Connection, Real Resistance: A Film-Based Group Leadership Learning Lab (Day 2) Elliot Zeisel, PhD, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-DF; Chap Attwell, MD, MPH; Katherine Mitchell, PsyD, ABPP, CGP; Reginald Murph, MA; David Rothauser, MA, MS, LP, NCPsyA; Elizabeth Schneider, MA, JD; Audry Steele, MA, LPC	Intermediate	N/L
	C2	Complex PTSD – Neuroscience in Action in Group Therapy; Attunement, Regulation and Co-Regulation (Day 2) Kristin Shanahan MA, LPC-S	Intermediate	N/L
All-Day Courses	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM–12:30 PM & 2:00–4:30 PM	C7	How does leader interpersonal style inform treatment?: Lessons from focused brief group therapy on how understanding your style can inform your leadership Martyn Whittingham, PhD, AGPA-F	Intermediate	N/L
	C8	Complementary Approaches to Recovery From Addiction in Groups Jeffrey Roth, MD, CGP, AGPA-F; Barney Straus, MSW, MA, CGP, AGPA-F	Intermediate	N/L
	C9	Post-Traumatic Growth, TSM Psychodrama & Expressive Art Therapy: Trauma Group Process in Action Steven Durost, PhD; Kate Hudgins, PhD	Intermediate	N/L
	C10v	(VIRTUAL) Dutch Design: Teaching Group Therapy Willem de Haas, MSc	Intermediate	10+
All-Day Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM–12:30 PM & 2:00–4:30 PM	34a	Holding the Tension: Dialectics of Self, Systems, and Humanity in Group Therapy Vincent Dehili PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F; E Merten, LICSW	Intermediate	N/L
	35a	The Bodies in the Room Jill Lewis MA, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F; Anna Packard, PhD, CGP	Introductory	N/L
	36a	“The Play is the Thing”: The Role of Play In Group Andrew Eig, PhD, ABPP	Advanced	N/L
	37a	The Light Between Us: Psychodramas of Meaning and Joy Kate Merkle, MPH, LCSW, RDN, PAT; Mallory A. Primm, MA	Introductory	N/L
	38a	Dreaming Into Being: Community Psychoanalysis and War Gaea Logan, LPC-S, CGP, AGPA-F; Tetiana Komar, PhD; Michael Korson, MFT, Psychoanalyst; Michele Ribeiro, EdD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F, FAPA; Gil Spielberg, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F; Mary Sussillo, LCSW, AGPA-F	Intermediate	N/L
	39a	Deepening Emotional Experience in Group with ISTDP + Modern Analysis William Watson, PhD, CGP, FAPA	Intermediate	N/L
	40av	(VIRTUAL) The Complexity of Group Work in the Climate of our Times – Connection Through A Working Workshop Robert Berley, PhD, CGP, AGPA-LF	Intermediate	N/L

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2.5 Hour Morning Open Sessions	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	310	Having Difficult Conversations in our Increasingly Polarized Groups Allan Sheps, MSW, RSW, CGP, AGPA-F; Willard Ashley Sr, DMin, CGP, SCP, NCPsyA; Susan Farrow, HBA, BSc OT; Susan Gant, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-DF; Molyn Leszcz, MD, FRCPC, CGP, AGPA-DF	Introductory	N/L
	311	New Dimensions in Modern Psychoanalytic Group: A Panel Discussion Alice Brown, PsyD, CGP; Aaron Black PhD, CGP, AGPA-F; Jeanne Bunker, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F; Janice Morris, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F; Ellen Wright, PhD	Introductory	N/L
	312	Panel Discussion: Navigating Group Dynamics with Kids and Teens Michael Murray, LMHC, MEd, CGP; Leah Niehaus, MSW, LCSW, CGP; Frannie Pingitore, PhD, PCNS-BC, CGP; Andrew Pojman EdD, CGP, AGPA-F; Sara Schreiber, LCSW, CGP; Lawrence Shweky, MA, LCSW, CGP	Introductory	N/L
	313	Creating Healing Spaces: Group Interventions for Black Mothers Navigating Racialized Stereotypes and Maternal Health Disparities Alexis Abernethy, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F; Sophie Barrett, MA; Rodelle Benito, MA; Rachel Kolade, MA; Dinisha Mingo, MA	Intermediate	N/L
2.5 Hour Morning Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	41	Help People Embrace Differences, Extend Community, and Extend Lives Geoffrey Kane, MD, MPH, CGP; Jess Sneed, BA	Intermediate	N/L
	42	Navigating Dual Relationships with Confidence: Therapist and Client Perspectives Stephanie Vail, LMFT, CGP; Lily Wolf, LMFT, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	43	I'm Delighted You're Here: Delight as a Feeling, Delight as a Stance Evan Perlo, LMFT, CGP	Introductory	N/L
	44	The Group as an Object of Desire - Awakening Eros in Group Therapy when the World is Dominated by Thanatos Marcia Honig, PsyD	Intermediate	N/L
	45	Compassion Focused Group Therapy: Theory and Practice Madeline Diopoulos, PhD; Kristina Hansen, PhD, CGP; Klynton Hobbs, PhD; Natalie Kirtley, PhD; Lindsay Regehr, PhD	Intermediate	N/L
	46	Buddhism and Group Psychotherapy: Petite Bliss and Humbling Discomfort Francis Kaklauskas, PsyD, CGP, AGPA-F	Introductory	N/L
	47	Deepening Connection in the Here-and-Now: Integrating Contemporary Models to Catalyze Healing in Groups Annie Weiss, LICSW, CGP, AGPA-F	Intermediate	10+
	48v	(VIRTUAL) Taking off our shoes: Radical empathy as an intentional strategy to deepen connections Keith Fadelici, LCSW, CGP; John Lutz Jr, PhD	Intermediate	N/L
90-Minute Morning Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	49-5	Creativity and Resilience in Creating and Teaching Outpatient Virtual Support Groups During and Post-Pandemic Times Kristian Georgiev, MD; Nelly Katsnelson, MD, CGP	Intermediate	4+
	50-5	Integrating Yalom's Therapeutic Factors with Positive Psychology and Sociometry Nancy Kirsner, PhD, TEP, OTR	Intermediate	10+
	51-5v	(VIRTUAL) From Splitting to Solidarity: The Power of "Jeong" in Healing Systemic Trauma Esther Cho, MSW	Intermediate	N/L
Lunch Break – 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM				
SIG Meetings – 12:45 – 1:45 PM				

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2.5 Hour Afternoon Open Sessions	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
2:00–4:30 PM	314	“Can I Say That in Here?”: Making Space for Polarized Perspectives in Group <i>Sonia Kahn, PsyD, CGP; Michael Magenheimer, PsyD; Jayne Miller, PsyD</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	315	Whose Trigger Is It Anyway?! Turning Tension into Group Gold <i>Paula De Franco, PhD</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	316	Leadership: Foundations and Challenges <i>Deborah Sharp, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F; Anwar Francis, MSW, LCSW; Miguel Lewis, PsyD, ABPP, CGP; Stephanie Vail, LMFT, CGP</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	317	You Can’t Step in the Same River Twice: How Our Groups Change Through the Lifespan <i>Justin Hecht, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F; Maryetta Andrews-Sachs, MA, LICSW, CGP, AGPA-F; Lauren Finney, LCSW; Farooq Mohyuddin, MD, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Intermediate	N/L
2.5 Hour Afternoon Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
2:00–4:30 PM	52	Starting A Therapy Group <i>Brooke Stroud, PsyD</i>	Introductory	N/L
	53	No Mistake as yet unmade: A salon for group therapist who want to lighten up and enjoy the ride <i>Mary Nicholas PhD, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Advanced	N/L
	54	Balint groups: an opportunity for clinicians to explore countertransference and experience new possibilities <i>Karen Carlson, MD; Eran Metzger, MD; Kathleen Ulman, PhD, CGP, AGPA-DLF; Alan Witkower, EdD, CGP</i>	Introductory	N/L
	55	The Very First Group Session: Creative Polyvagal Strategies to Establish Calm and Connection <i>Dawn McBride, PhD; Alyson Worrall, RPsych</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	56	The Look of Loss and Grief Today: From the Individual to the Societal Level <i>Rosalind Forti, LICSW, MSW, PhD; Lorraine Mangione, PhD</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	57	Wired for Connection: Unpacking the Contact Function in Modern Group <i>Ryan Spencer, LMFT, CGP, AGPA-F</i>	Introductory	N/L
	58	Couple Intervention After Trauma: Two’s Company, Three’s Not a Crowd and Group Can be a Gift <i>Richard Beck, LCSW, BCD, CGP, AGPA-F; Suzanne Phillips PsyD, CGP, ABPP, AGPA-DF</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	59	Life Staging® constellations: awakening our embodied wisdom and presence through a co-creative sculptural process! <i>Elisabet Wollsen, MScPsych</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	60v	(VIRTUAL) Learning to Grieve: Group Work using the Grief M.E.N.T.O.R. Method: Six Core Components to Creating a Daily Grief Practice <i>Meghan Jarvis, MA LICSW</i>	Introductory	N/L
90-Minute Afternoon Open Sessions	Session #	Title & Presenter	Instructional Level	Experience Level
3:00–4:30 PM	318-5	The 13-Millisecond Problem: A Neuroscience-informed, Narrative-based Approach to Improving Safety, Reducing Shame & Building Cohesion in Potentially Polarized & Diverse Groups <i>Hannah Smith, MA, LMHC, CGP</i>	Advanced	N/L
	319-5	Executive Function Junction: A Home for Deeper Connection, Exploration, and Skills to Build a More Neuro-Affirming World <i>Chris Truong, PsyD, MHS; Amber Walser, PsyD</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	320-5	Master’s Class: The Magic and the Mystery of Group Therapy <i>Connie Concannon, LCSW, AGPA-DF</i>	Introductory	N/L
	321-5v	(VIRTUAL) Using Group to Address Internalized Racial Oppression <i>LaTasha Smith, PhD, LCSW, CGP</i>	Introductory	N/L
Large Group	Session #	Title & Presenter		
4:45–6:00 PM	LG-2	Large Groups in Transition <i>Leonard Levis, PhD; Diana Castañeda, LPC; Laurie Nisco, PhD; Jaime Romo, EdD</i>		
6:15–7:30 PM		Memorial Session <i>A time to commemorate members of the AGPA family we have lost this past year</i>		
9:00 PM–12:00 Midnight		Group Foundation Dance Party <i>This event is included with the Six-Day and Five-Day Institute and Conference packages or Three-Day Conference registration.</i>		

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Saturday, March 7

Mitchell Hochberg Memorial Public Education Event

8:15 AM–9:15 AM	P-SA	Title & Presenters	Instructional Level	Experience Level
Morning Open Sessions (2.5 Hour Open Sessions)	Session #	Title & Presenters	Instructional Level	Experience Level
9:30 AM–12:00 PM	322	Louis R. Ormont Event: Coming Together Without Falling Apart: On Hating in the Group Unconscious Beverly Stoute, MD, FABP, DFAPA, DFAACAP	Introductory	N/L
	323	Restoring Humanity: Frantz Fanon and the Sociocultural Project of Group Psychotherapy Dominick Grundy, PhD, CGP, AGPA-F; Solange Emilio, PhD; Fanita Henderson, PhD; Bojun Hu, PhD; Christine Schmidt, LCSW, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	324	Queening Out Harder: Even more about Drag as a Mode and Model of Exploration in Group Spaces Geoffrey Hervey, MPsy; John Stitt, PsyD	Intermediate	N/L
	325	Reflections on Billow's Influence: Becoming Ourselves in Group Andrew Eig, PhD, ABPP; Hilary Curtis, PsyD, LMHC, CGP; Tzachi Slonim, PhD, ABPP, CGP; Lisa Stern PhD, ABPP, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	326v	(VIRTUAL) Exploring Climate Emotions and Collective Healing Through Group Process and Training Elizabeth Driscoll, MA, LPC; Eva Jahn, MA, LPC, Dipl SW	Intermediate	N/L
Morning Workshops (2.5 Hour Workshops)	Session #	Title & Presenters	Instructional Level	Experience Level
9:30 AM–12:00 PM	61	Playing With Parts Aaron Stern, RP; Annalee Sweet, LCSW	Introductory	N/L
	62	Foundational Interpersonal Process Group Theory and Techniques Alan Hines, MD, CGP; Beverly Hines, PhD, LPC	Introductory	N/L
	63	Using Mentalization to Work Through Shame in Group Psychotherapy Irina Rivera, PhD	Introductory	N/L
	64	But what about Me? Applying group therapy principles in agency settings Carmen Burlingame, LCSW, CGP	Introductory	N/L
	65	Moving Closer: Addressing Resistances to Intimacy and Whole-Person Contact Combining Two Modalities in Co-Leadership Carlos Canales, PsyD, CGP, AGPA-F, SEP™; Jeffrey Middleton LCSW, CGP	Intermediate	N/L
	66	Center Stage: Integrating Voices from 'front stage' and 'back stage' through Psychotherapeutic Playback Theater Ronen Kowalsky, MA	Intermediate	N/L
	67	Trauma-Informed Principles in Psychodrama and Group Therapy Scott Giacomucci, DSW, LCSW, BCD, TEP, CGP	Introductory	N/L
	68v	(VIRTUAL) Dream Opening in Groups: A Non-Interpretive, Experiential Approach Shara Morales, MBA, MEd, ECP, RSME	Introductory	N/L

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Saturday, March 7

Open Sessions (90 Minute Open Sessions)	Session #	Title & Presenters	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon	327-5	Transmodal Continuous Online Group (TCOG): Holding Space and Deeply Connecting for 20 years <i>Joseph Wise, MD, CGP; Hicham Jabrane, BSc, MSc, MBACP; Maria Puschbeck-Raetzell</i>	Introductory	N/L
	328-5	Resilience in Transition: Using Virginia Satir's Change Process Model with Ukrainian Refugee Women in Open Group Psychotherapy <i>Sophiko Gogochashvili, MA</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	329-5v	(VIRTUAL) Group Work in Action: Cultivating Compassion in a Hurried and Hurting World <i>Chunmiao (Kayla) Wang, PhD; Stephanie Shiqin Chong, PhD</i>	Introductory	N/L
	330-5v	(VIRTUAL) SAFE Family Psychoeducational Group: Co-Regulation in Crisis: Strategies for Strengthening Family Systems during Housing and Life Transitions <i>Nina Kaufmans, MS, LPC</i>	Intermediate	N/L
90-Minute Morning Workshops	Session #	Title & Presenters	Instructional Level	Experience Level
10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon	69-5	Intensive Transdiagnostic Exposure Therapy Group: A Model Implemented in a University Setting <i>Angelica Castro Bueno, PhD; Kseniya Zhuzha, PhD, CGP</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	70-5	Working with Bipolar Members in Group: Containment, Connection, and Clinical Complexity <i>Deborah Healy, MD, CGP</i>	Introductory	N/L
	71-5	Experiential Support Groups: Embodiment, Safety and Restorative Repair for Developmental Trauma <i>Pamela Rosin, LMFT</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	72-5	Compassionate and Assertive Communication: Teaching Nonviolent Communication Skills in a Group Therapy Context <i>Ben Bailey, PhD</i>	Introductory	N/L
	73-5v	(VIRTUAL) LET-UP: A Step-by-Step Approach to Preventing and Repairing Interpersonal Cultural Ruptures <i>Dana Crawford, PhD</i>	Intermediate	N/L
	74-5v	(VIRTUAL) Holding space for total strangers: the death cafe and end-of-life doula models <i>Nathalie Bonafé, PhD</i>	Introductory	N/L
Lunch Break – 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM Group Foundation Luncheon and Performance				
2:15 – 3:45 PM	LG-3	Large Group <i>Leonard Levis, PhD; Diana Castañeda, LCPC; Laurie Nisco; Jaime Romo, EdD</i>		
4:00 – 4:45 PM		Conference Evaluation Meeting		
4:45 – 6:00 PM		Conference Closing Reception		

Instructional Level: Indicates the level that the instructor's material will be presented.

Entrance Requirements: **N/L** = No Limitations; **<4** = Less than four years of group leadership experience; **4+** = More than four years of group leadership experience; **10+** = More than ten years of group leadership experience (Masters Level)

Continuing Education Credits

Refer to agpa.org for continually updated information.

SATISFACTORY COMPLETION

Your chosen sessions must be attended in their entirety. Partial credit of individual sessions is not available. If you are seeking continuing education credit for a state or specialty not listed below, it is your responsibility to contact your licensing/certification board to determine course eligibility for your licensing/certification requirement.

CERTIFIED GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPISTS (CGP): Institute and Conference events may be counted towards recertification requirements for the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists on a one hour per one continuing education credit basis. Please note that all continuing education credit events for CGP recertification must be in group psychotherapy.

PHYSICIANS: Accreditation Statement – The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Credit Designation Statement - The AGPA designates this live activity for a maximum of 39.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

PSYCHOLOGISTS: American Group Psychotherapy Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. AGPA maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Maximum of 39.0 hours.

The following state boards accept courses from APA providers for Counselors: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MD, ME, MO, NC, ND, NH, NE, NJ, NM, NV, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WY

MI: No CE requirements

The following state boards accept courses from APA providers for MFTs: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, ID, IN, KS, MD, ME, MO, NE, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WY

MI: No CE requirement

The following state boards accept courses from APA providers for Addictions Professionals: AK, AR, CO, CT, DC, DE, GA, IA, IN, KS, LA, MD, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM, NV (outstate held)*, OK, OR, SC, UT, WA, WI, WY

MA/MFTs: Participants can self-submit courses not approved by the MAMFT board for review.

The following state boards accept courses from APA providers for Social Workers: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, ID, IN, KY, ME, MN, MO, NE, NH, NM, OR, PA, VT, WI, WY

* If the activity is held live in the state of NY, then direct addictions board is required, i.e.: NAADAC. If the activity is held outside NY, is virtual, enduring or remote, it is considered "outstate" and this reciprocity applies.

NY: The American Group Psychotherapy Association, Inc. (AGPA) is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0245. 39 hours.

SOCIAL WORKERS: AGPA, #1064, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE

providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. AGPA maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 1-27-24 to 1-27-27. Social workers participating in this conference will receive up to 39.0 continuing education credits.

The following state boards accept courses offering ASWB ACE credit for Social Workers: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NM, NV, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY

* WV accepts ASWB ACE unless activity is live in West Virginia, then an application is required.

The following state boards accept courses offering ASWB ACE credit for Counselors: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, MA, MD, ME, MO, ND, NE, NM, NH, NV, OK, OR, PA, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WY

AL/Counselors: Activities not providing NBCC approval may be approved by the Board for individual licensees upon receipt of acceptable documentation prior to the activity. Please send course details to your licensing board for approval BEFORE the event. No approvals afterward by the board.

MI: No CE requirement

The following state boards accept courses offering ASWB ACE credit for MFTs: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, IA, ID, IN, KS, MD, ME, MO, NC, NE, NH, NM, NV, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WY

MA / MFTs: Participants can self-submit courses not approved by the MAMFT board for review.

MI: No CE requirement

The following state boards accept courses offering ASWB ACE credit for Addictions Professionals: AK, CA, CO, CT, GA, IA, IN, KS, LA, MO, MT, ND, NM, NV, OK, OR, SC, WA, WI, WV, WY

NY: The American Group Psychotherapy Association, Inc. (AGPA) is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0784. 39 hours.

OH: Social Workers & Marriage & Family Therapists - Activities held OUTSIDE of Ohio and not approved by state or national, participants can submit a post-request to the board for attending (done via CE Broker). OH SW accepts ASWB and OH Counselor accepts NBCC.

NURSES: AGPA will not be providing ANCC approved credit for nurses at this event. Many state nursing boards may accept courses approved by ACCME. Contact your licensing/certification board to determine if the course eligibility for your state.

COUNSELORS: American Group Psychotherapy Association, Inc. (AGPA) has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 5675. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. AGPA is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs. Maximum of 39.0 clock hours.

NY: The American Group Psychotherapy Association, Inc. (AGPA) is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC-0294. 39 hours.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS: This course has been approved by AGPA, as a NAADAC Approved Education Provider #62820, for 39.0 CE. AGPA is responsible for all aspects of its programming. This course deals with Counselor Skill Groups: Ongoing Treatment Planning, Counseling Services.

NAADAC covers all states except: CA, IL, OH, PA

HI: No CE requirements

The following state boards accept courses from NAADAC providers for Counselors: AL, AR, AZ, CO, DE, GA, IN, KS, MD, ME, NE, NC, NM, ND, NJ, NV, OR, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WY

The following state boards accept courses from NAADAC providers for MFTs: AR, AZ, DE, IN, KS, LA, MD, NC, NE, NJ, NM, NV, OR, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WY

MA / MFTs: Participants can self-submit courses not approved by the MAMFT board for review.

The following state boards accept courses from NAADAC providers for Social Workers: AR, AZ, CO, DE, GA, ID, IN, KY, ME, MN, ND, NE, NM, OR, VT, WI, WY

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS: NBCC approval is accepted by the Marriage and Family Therapy Boards in the following states: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, IA, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, ME, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WV, WY.

MA: This course has been submitted to the New England Association for Family and Systemic Therapy for review.

MN: This course has been submitted to the Minnesota Board of Marriage & Family Therapy for up review.

NY: The American Group Psychotherapy Association, Inc. (AGPA) is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed marriage and family therapists #MFT-0120. 39 hours.

OH: Social Workers & Marriage & Family Therapists - Activities held OUTSIDE of Ohio and not approved by state or national, participants can submit a post-request to the board for attending (done via CE Broker). OH SW accepts ASWB and OH Counselor accepts NBCC.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS: Participation in the 2026 Institute and Conference continuing education events carries Continuing Education Units on a one unit per 10 contact hour basis. (Fractional units may be obtained).

Join AGPA's Continuous Online Group held in conjunction with the 2026 Meeting.

The task of this group will be to provide experience with and learning about online large group dynamics. It will be available "24/7" from February 26 – March 13 and its members will interact electronically. The co-leaders will be: Joe Wise, MD, CGP, Maria Puschbeck-Raetzell, and Hicham Jabrane. Register online is available. AGPA Connect 2026 registrants can participate gratis.

Twelve-Step Recovery Meetings

Members of AGPA who are members of 12-Step fellowships have organized a daily OPEN 12-STEP MEETING during the six-day Annual Institute and Conference. These meetings are open to members of any 12-Step fellowship (AA, OA, NA, GA, Al-Anon and others). They are also open to any member of AGPA interested in exploring recovery for themselves, their family members, or those supporting their colleagues in recovery.

Discounts

Military: A 35% discount off registration rates is available to active military clinicians as well as to clinicians and chaplains working with active-duty military and veterans.

Early Career Professionals/Students/Residents/Retirees: A 35% discount off registration rates is available. Students/Residents must provide a statement of full-time enrollment. The Early Career Professional fee is applicable to Students/ Residents for four years after date of graduation.

Agency/Institution: A special 35% discount is available to individuals from the same agency/institution. To obtain a discount code for your institution, send a listing of the names of registrants on agency letterhead stating personnel are full-time or part-time employees whose sole source of income is from the agency to info@agpa.org. The letter should also verify the agency or institution as a non-profit. (Other discounts are not applicable when using an agency/institutional discount.)

Refund Policy

Cancellations must be submitted in writing by February 2, 2026, and will be subject to a \$50 service charge. It is the responsibility of the registrant to cancel whether registration confirmation has been received. Refunds will not be granted after February 2 except in extenuating circumstances. Letters outlining special circumstances will be reviewed by the AGPA Executive Committee following the meeting.

How to Register

Use our online registration system for quick and easy registration. The online registration will provide an immediate confirmation of choices.

AGPA staff is available to answer your questions by phone Monday-Friday (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Eastern) toll free at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or call 212-297-2190.

If you require special accommodations to fully participate, please provide a written description of your needs and send to info@agpa.org.

AGPA has special hotel discounts to make your trip to New York City convenient and affordable! Save on...

Accommodations

Make sure you mention AGPA to receive our special discount room rate.

Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel

811 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019

Hotel Room Rate:

Early Bird Rate Extended
\$259 single/double until February 9

Online reservation information is available at: <https://book.passkey.com/event/51104848/owner/15592996/landing>

Be sure to make your hotel reservations by February 9, 2026, to receive the special group rates

New Professionals/Residents/Students:

Even further room discounts are available to new professionals, full-time students and psychiatric residents (\$179+ single/double occupancy). Student rooms are handled on a first-come, first-served basis while they are available.

AGPA Membership Benefits provide for professional development and continuing education opportunities in all aspects of group psychotherapy to enhance clinical skills and career advancement including...

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Priority enrollment and reduced registration fees for AGPA Connect and e-Learning events
- Complimentary registration for year-round e-Learning events
- Complimentary access to AGPA Online Continuing Education Library
- Access to workshops and training programs sponsored by local and regional Affiliate Societies
- Priority consideration for AGPA Connect Scholarships (see agpa.org for details)

WEBSITE: AGPA.ORG

- Brings therapists, students, and clients together
- Provides complete information on AGPA programs and products, gives clients help in locating qualified group therapists
- Access to Members-Only section
- Online E-Directory provides a national collegial referral network of approximately 2,000 group therapists

PUBLICATIONS

- Free subscription to the International Journal of Group Psychotherapy and four additional mental health journals
- The Group Circle newsletter providing members current professional information and the opportunity for national contacts and collegiality
- AGPA Group Connections, our monthly email newsletter, provides AGPA information updates
- The AGPA e-Learning monthly newsletter, keeping you abreast of the exciting online continuing education opportunities available
- Discount on AGPA Curricula and Taylor & Francis publications

RESEARCH & TEACHING

- Consultation on research and design development
- Access to grants and group research opportunities
- Publication opportunities

NETWORKING & PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

- Special Interest Groups provide a forum for networking and peer support among individuals with similar interests
- Opportunities to develop interdisciplinary contacts internationally for exchange of professional knowledge and skills
- Consultation on developing a group psychotherapy practice
- Obtain national visibility and recognition in your area of professional specialization

LOCAL & REGIONAL AFFILIATE SOCIETIES

- Our local societies across the country offer collegiality, referral networks, training, consultation and supervision