



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

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION TO AWARD DISTINGUISHED  
FELLOWSHIPS TO SHARI Y. BARON, MSN, CNS, CGP, AGPA-DLF, AND KAREN S. TRAVIS, LCSW,  
CGP, AGPA-DF

**NEW YORK, February 28, 2026**— The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced that Shari Y. Baron, MSN, CNS, CGP, AGPA-DLF and Karen S. Travis, LCSW, CGP, AGPA-DF, will be awarded Distinguished Fellowship in the Association at its upcoming AGPA Connect 2026 in New York City, March 2 - March 7 at the Sheraton New York Times Square. The award presentation will take place during the Tri-Organizational Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 6:00 PM. Distinguished Fellowship is the highest honor bestowed by the Association, recognizing outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of group psychotherapy.

**Ms. Shari Baron** is being recognized for her extraordinary dedication to group psychotherapy and her longstanding commitment to the mission and work of AGPA. A member of AGPA since 1985 and a Life Fellow since 2020, Ms. Baron has contributed at every level of the organization, including many years of committee leadership and service on the Board of Directors. Widely respected for her generosity, depth of knowledge, and steadfast mentorship, she is known for her thoughtful leadership and inclusive approach within AGPA and its Affiliate Societies. Through her extensive publications, presentations, and decades of service, she has had a lasting impact on the field of group psychotherapy and on the professional lives of countless colleagues.

**Ms. Karen Travis** is being recognized for her unwavering dedication to AGPA, her local Affiliate Society in Louisiana, and the broader field of group psychotherapy. A deeply respected leader and mentor, Ms. Travis is known for her inspirational presence, boundless energy, and commitment to welcoming and developing new clinicians within the organization and the field of group therapy. Her sustained service to AGPA includes years of committee involvement and steadfast support of the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, including two terms as Chair of the Board. Karen's leadership, generosity of spirit, and enduring devotion to the mission of group psychotherapy exemplify the values of a Distinguished Fellow.

“Distinguished Fellowship recognizes those who are seminal leaders, teachers, clinicians, researchers, and authors in the global community of group psychotherapy,” said President Lorraine Wodiska, PhD, ABPP, CGP, AGPA-F. “Ms. Baron and Ms. Travis, with their local and national renowned leadership in AGPA and the group psychotherapy field, epitomize this recognition.”

This award presentation is a highlight of AGPA Connect 2026 in New York City. Entitled “*Group Life: Holding Space For Deeper Connection in Complex Times*” this meeting attracts 1,000 group therapists, researchers, and scientists from around the world. Group therapists of all disciplines gather to learn the most effective techniques in working with a variety of populations in groups, an increasingly utilized modality due to its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.

For more information, contact AGPA at (212) 297-2190 or visit [www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org).

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media are invited to attend select sessions of AGPA Connect 2026. To register, please send an e-mail request to [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org) or call (212) 297-2190.

## About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) is the foremost professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a multi-organizational structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health, a philanthropic arm; the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body; and the Affiliate Societies Assembly representing 20 local and regional affiliate societies providing continuing education, consultation, and support for group therapists across the country. AGPA represents over 2,000 mental health professional members, including clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and psychiatrists, as well as mental health, family, school, and pastoral counselors, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the International Board for Certification of Group Psychotherapists. AGPA members are experienced licensed mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and/or various non-clinical groups. Many members are organizational specialists who work within the corporate world, non-for-profit organizations, and other groups to help them improve their functioning and delivery of services.

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

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