



**AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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December 21, 2005

W. Brad Johnson, Ph.D.

President, Society For Military Psychology, APA

Dept. of Leadership, Ethics & Law

United States Naval Academy

Luce Hall, Stop 7B

Annapolis, Maryland 21402

Dear Dr. Johnson:

The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) welcomes all military clinicians and chaplains to the 63rd Annual Meeting "Bridging Differences: Healing a House Divided," February 20-25, 2006 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, California.

In recognition of the care and service such military personnel have been providing to the men and women serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and missions throughout the world, AGPA offers them a 50% registration discount to attend this conference. In addition, the Group Psychotherapy Foundation of AGPA includes them as eligible for scholarships in the event the 50% discount will still not allow them to attend.

Representing 3,000 mental health caregivers from psychiatry, psychology, social work, nursing, creative arts and spiritual ministries who utilize various models of "group" in their professional work, AGPA's Annual Meeting offers a week of keynote addresses, institute presentations, and a three day conference of full and half-day workshops and a variety of open sessions and panel discussions by acknowledged professionals in the mental health field.

Of particular interest to military clinicians and chaplains may be several courses based upon **Disaster Response Protocols for Group Based Interventions**. These protocol sessions, which focus on working with adults and children, caregivers, uniformed service workers and working in schools, were developed by AGPA and are based upon lessons learned from national and international response efforts.

Additionally, there are many other sessions that may be of particular relevance, including:

- The Efficacy of Groups in Wellness and Recovery Models (217)
- Mind-Body Skills (9)
- Caring for Caregivers: Experiences, Thoughts and Reflections (24)
- Threats of Violence in Group Psychotherapy (211)
- Group Psychological First Aid: A Training Course for Utilizing the Group to Facilitate Psychological First Aid (84)
- Over the Influence, or Just Say Know: Three Approaches to Working with Addicted Patients (311)
- Caught in the Black Pit of Depression: What Hurts, What Helps, What Heals (58)
- The Art of Resilience (60)
- Current Research in Group Psychotherapy (301)
- Using Group Techniques to Manage Traumatic Situations (81)

Other highlights of the Meeting include:

- **Irvin Yalom, M.D., DFAGPA and Modyn Leszcz, M.D., FRCPC, CGP, co-authors of *The Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy (Fifth Edition)***, will deliver a Special Institute Presentation entitled “The Schopenhauer Cure: Group Therapy Demonstration and Discussion.” This presentation provides an opportunity to create, demonstrate and analyze a group as it brings to life the characters in Dr. Yalom’s latest book, *The Schopenhauer Cure* (HarperCollins).
- **George Lakoff, Ph.D.**, Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of *Don’t Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values, Frame the Debate* will present “The Family Morality and Politics: Strict and Nurturant Parents,” which addresses the concept of family models and how they are reflected in and affect societal issues.
- **Daniel Siegel, M.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine and author of the internationally acclaimed text, *The Developing Mind: Toward a Neurobiology of Interpersonal Experience*, will speak on “The Social Brain in Human Relationships: Insights from Interpersonal Neurobiology,” a newly emerging view of the connections between the mind, the brain and human relationships.
- **AGPA President-Elect, Elizabeth Knight, LMSW, CGP, FAGPA** will deliver her Presidential Address “Beyond Survival: The Role of AGPA in the ‘Bowling Alone’ World of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” focusing on the challenges of promoting the benefits of group in a society where the isolation of individuals may be growing.

To register utilizing the discount, simply complete the online registration form (click here: [https://odin.syscomsrv.com/agpasecure/mtgs/2006\\_annmtg/annualmtgreg\\_2006.asp](https://odin.syscomsrv.com/agpasecure/mtgs/2006_annmtg/annualmtgreg_2006.asp)) and indicate “active military clinician” in the discount applied section. Information on scholarships can be found at the following link: <http://www.groupsinc.org/stdnt/gpfschawds.html>. If you have any questions, please call the AGPA office at 212-477-2677.

AGPA looks forward to the opportunity to share with you at the 63rd Annual Meeting and Conference in San Francisco. On behalf of all of our membership, let us extend our thanks for your mission of care and service to all of the men and women who serve our country.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Klein, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA  
AGPA President

Marsha S. Block, CAE, CFRE  
AGPA Chief Executive Officer