

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Michelle Collins-Greene, Ph.D., CGP

As my first year of presidency comes to a close and we embark on the second, I am happy to report that EGPS continues to be a strong collegial community and professional home for about 300 diverse, group psychotherapists. Our governance continues to grow into a more complex, collaborative and productive group of individuals who are working hard at attaining our vision of promoting excellence and diversity in group psychotherapy into the mainstream of society and all therapeutic settings. EGPS governance has been striving, and continues to make gains, towards leadership development and stronger, more integrated and differentiated committee work. In her role as our Administrator, Jan Vadell, serves as a consultant in organizational development as well as serving as our central information source. I stay amazed at the productivity, successes, and process-awareness of this organization and feel very privileged to serve as President during this time. In these pages that follow you will read about the activities of the Society over the past year by the creative individuals that have contributed to making them happen.

Every year your joint Board of Directors meets for a whole-day retreat to discuss the vision and direction of the Society. This year we decided to take our vision a step further and hammer out a semi-formal Strategic Plan with documented goals and the nitty-gritty of strategic actions to make those goals happen. This was a natural progression of the strategic planning that the Board has been doing in years up to now. A Strategic Plan is never written in stone and is always a “work-in-progress” but for the first time we have a *written* Strategic Plan document -- to be added to, revised, and reformulated in years to come. The beauty of the plan is that we can see how rapidly we achieve our goals, as well as understand which goals require more thought, effort, and perhaps reworking. I will give an overview of the progress we have made this year, and where our challenges still lie. A strategic plan also gives governance a way to communicate with membership about the “how-to” of reaching EGPS’s vision and mission. While each Committee and Task Force will report on their activities of the year, I will reference the Strategic Plan to give you an overall view of the state of the organization.

The Strategic Plan goals are: 1. Develop existing and additional funding sources; 2. Review and promote collaborative and efficient governance and administration; 3. Bring group psychotherapy to the public; and 4. Increase and maintain membership. All these goals are considered to be of equal importance and are derivatives of EGPS mission objectives in the bylaws.

To begin with the first goal: Our major sources of revenue are membership dues and contributions made at the time of membership renewal, then individual donors for projects such as the purchase of an audio system (payment of phase one of the purchase was finally achieved this year), and finally the fundraiser which is held biannually. Our events, pay for themselves but do not bring in much in extra funds. This is intentional in the spirit of being a non-profit organization. As is, we run close to the breakeven line most of the time. We are using any surplus for important projects such as developing a new website, trying a brand new workshop to inform people of the benefits of group psychotherapy, and augmenting the audio system. Given these economic times and that we will be hosting the AGPA Annual Meeting for the next two years, your Executive Committee and Board have been percolating ideas that will hopefully meet the challenge of maintaining funding in the next year.

Our Treasurer, Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP has been the steward of our financial health. He is the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and has initiated a revision of the Committee that will include members outside the Executive Committee (until now the EC has functioned as the Budget & Finance Committee), to undertake an overview of budgeting and fund raising for the Society. That way the decision makers will have more information and better criteria to present to the Board for making budgetary decisions.

Our second goal of promoting improved internal functioning of governance and administration includes: a) plans for *integrated* marketing of all EGPS events; b) implementing budgeting for Committees and Task Forces; and c) reviewing the roles of the Executive Committee, elected Board, Committee and Task Force Chairs and the Administrator. The EC (Executive Committee) is made up of the President, Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, the Immediate Past-President, Peter Taylor, PhD, SEP, CGP, FAGPA, the Secretary, Joan Wittig, MS, ADTR, LCAT, the Treasurer, Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP, and the Administrator, Jan Vadell.

Over the last year, EGPS has had 11 standing Committees and three Task Forces. Each has a report for you in the following pages. Here I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Chairs and Co-Chairs of each Committee and Task Force. The Annual Conference, our major event and largest Committee was headed by Patti Cox, PhD, CGP and Ed Elder, MDiv, LMHC, and produced another wonderful Conference last November. Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP has assumed the role of Conference Committee Co-Chair Designate this year and will move into the Co-Chair role directly following the 2010 Conference. Our journal *GROUP*, edited by Dominick Grundy, PhD, CGP with Assistant Editor, Lee Kassan, MA, CGP and Managing Editor, Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP has put out 4 on-time issues, representing a full recovery of from our loss and bankruptcy of our last publishing company. Greg MacColl, MSW, CGP spearheaded the development of a successful monthly discussion group in Brooklyn, and the Long Island Discussion Group continues to have a consistent monthly gathering. Kari Taylor, PhD recently joined Greg as Co-Chair of the Long Island Discussion Group. Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA single-handedly edits our Newsletter bringing you informative articles as well as news of Society events. Ronnie Levine, PhD, CGP, FAGPA and Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP had another exciting year of Manhattan Professional Discussion Group events. The Referral Service, with Co-Chairs Katie Ault, MS, NP, CGP Stephanie Kravec, CSW and Mary Sussillo, LCSW, CGP provided an updated list of ongoing groups, made referrals and encouraged the development of the new EGPS listserv. Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP and Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP brought us Susan Gantt, PhD, CGP, FAGPA for our Spring Event. The Training Program with new Co-Directors Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP and Marie Rothschild, LCSW, CGP had a stellar year in attracting students and developing a second year supervision program. As Chair of the Membership Committee, Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP welcomed new members and reached out to members to renew their membership. Our re-energized Past-Presidents Committee changed Chairs during the year. Thank you to Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA and Bert Weinblatt, PhD, CGP, L FAGPA for turning over the helm of the Committee to Past-Presidents, Herb Rabin, PhD, CGP, L FAGPA and Richard Beck, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA who have begun communicating with all our Past Presidents through the use of a new listserv just for this group. We anticipate using this distinguished group as a “think tank” for future EGPS activities. The Why Group Therapy Workshop Task Force has been lead by Mary Sussillo, LCSW, CGP, Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA and Susan Frankel, MSW, CGP. After much planning, the event has taken form and will happen in the fall of 2010. We have already begun our collaborative partnering with AGPA for the national association’s Annual Meeting here in 2011 and 2012. The Hosting Society Task Force has been formed with Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD as Chair in collaboration with Jan Vadell. Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP and Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP are the Hospitality Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA and Carol Dallinga, LCSW are the Marketing Subcommittee Co-Chairs, and Chera Finnis, PsyD, CGP and Dan Raviv, PhD, CGP are the Program Subcommittee Co-Chairs.

Integrated marketing across Committees has been a challenge for EGPS. In the past, we had a Marketing Task Force that developed guidelines for marketing for the individual Committees to use which continues to serve as a template. This year, to that end, our Administrator, Jan Vadell and Executive Committee members kept in touch with Committee/Task Force Co-Chairs to coordinate timely scheduling of events; and, marketing was done through personal word-of-mouth and listserv postings with the result of excellent attendance by members at all our events over the past year.

Other objectives under this goal of promoting evolving governance include reviewing roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee, elected Board members, Committee/Task Force Co-Chairs and the Administrator. Each member of the EC is assigned 3 or 4 Committees/Task Forces to liaison with to enhance role-functioning of Co-Chairs. This last year the President was the liaison to the Membership Committee, Long Island/Brooklyn Discussion Groups, and Past-Presidents Committee; Secretary, Joan Wittig, BC-DMT, LCAT was the liaison with the Manhattan Professional Discussion Group, Spring Event, Annual Conference, and Newsletter Committees; Treasurer, Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP was the liaison with our Journal *GROUP*, the Referral Service, and Website Task Force, and Past President, Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP SEP, FAGPA was the liaison with the Training Program, Nominating Committee and Why Group Therapy Workshop Task Force. Additionally, process time at Board meetings was reserved where role-functioning was a main focus.

The third goal of bringing Group Psychotherapy to the public is an area where we have an exciting development, the renovation of our Society’s professional website. Our Website Task Force has been working hard for the last few years to find the resources and talent to make this happen. This year’s Co-Chairs, Jonah Schwartz, LCSW and Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA have made strides in making this an actuality as you will see in their report—and in the fall when you log on to www.egps.org you will see all the changes that have been made. We believe our coming new,

improved website will be the underpinning of moving forward on many fronts of our Strategic Plan, not the least of which will be to provide a public forum to promote group psychotherapy.

And finally under our forth goal, of increasing and maintaining membership, was the action item of developing a membership listserv, which is now up and running. Stephanie Kravec, CSW of the Referral Service advocated strongly for this development, and the listserv was implemented by our Administrator, Jan Vadell, in consultation of the Executive Committee, and finally Joint Board consultation and endorsement in April. Carol Dallinga, LCSW, expert in marketing has been heading up our Membership Committee. In addition to the strategic plan action items, such as forming a Mentoring Sub-Committee, fostering networking at all our events, reaching out to geographical regions (CT, NJ, Westchester), regularly assessing current members needs (this was done through a membership survey sent out with last year's dues renewal), and including diversity in membership and offerings, Carol has been busy formulating the Membership Committee structure and objectives, and building the Committee.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee and joint Board of Directors for their participation, creativity, and hard work over the past year that contributed to another successful year of our Society. Several long-time Board members have retired from the Board this year and deserve mention. Bert Weinblatt, PhD, CGP, LFAGPA, Co-Chair of the Past-President's Committee has retired from the Board after umpteen years of service to the organization. He has been a substantial contributor throughout his years. Kathie Ault, MS, NP, CGP, Co-Chair of the Referral Service, has left to get married, leaving us with an updated Group Referral Listing (posted on the website). Stephanie Kravec, CSW, Co-Chair of the Referral Service is retiring after 15 years on the Board, many contributions, not least of which was inspiring us to get the listserv going. Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, SEP, FAGPA is leaving after 9 years on the Board and holding the role of Treasurer as well as President. He spear-headed the initiatives of the Why Group Therapy Workshop Task Force, and the purchase of our own sound system. He has been a warm friend and colleague, and has consistently contained and promoted the vision of EGPS throughout his time and presidency.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Joan Wittig, BC-DMT, LCAT

The role of the Secretary continues to be that of witness and historian as well as participant/member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The Secretary takes the minutes at the BOD meetings, sending them to the other members of the EC for review before final distribution to the BOD for review and approval. These minutes constitute a permanent record of the BOD meetings. The minutes provide a linear record of the work of the Board of Directors, aiding in keeping us on track in our work; and providing a historical record of the path the organization and the BOD has traveled. The Secretary performs much the same function for the Executive Committee, taking notes at our weekly conference calls and sending them around to serve as a record and reminder of our work; though these notes are not a part of the permanent records of EGPS.

As a member of the Executive Committee, the Secretary serves as liaison to several Committees, in order to provide a direct link between the Committees and the Executive Committee for the purpose of supporting and assisting the Committees/Task Forces with their work. This year the Secretary has been liaison to the Conference Committee, the Spring Event Committee, the Newsletter Committee, and the Manhattan Professional Discussion Group Committee.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP

Although we will not know our final figures for the year until after our fiscal year ends in June 2010, EGPS appears again to be financially stable. Our Fall Conference earned money for the fourth year in a row. The Manhattan Professional Discussion Group (PDG) continues to attract large audiences and good revenues. The Training Program was again able to enroll a full class as well as offer a second-year supervision program. Consequently, we expect to see similar revenues from the Training Program this year as compared to last year. Ad sales from our Newsletter have continued to be a significant source of revenue. In addition, we look forward to revenues from our 2009 Spring Event.

Through the generosity of our members and others, we have been able to raise money for scholarships and special projects. There remains a balance in the J. Dustin Nichols Scholarship Fund that is used for student scholarships towards Training Program tuition. In addition, we are currently raising funds in honor of our outgoing Past President, Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, SEP, FAGPA to enable EGPS to reimburse itself \$3,225 for the purchase a portable sound system. We project that we will raise enough funds to retire this debt. Finally, we continue to have the financial health to give our administrator annual cost-of-living increases.

EGPS will enter the 2010-11 fiscal year with enough money to support our many ongoing activities. We try to avoid raising our fees whenever possible (e.g. dues have not been raised for four years), to make the cost of attending our events and joining EGPS affordable to a wide range of professionals and students. Nonetheless, we anticipate that the organization will have to charge more for our events and dues to cover increased costs. A financial summary for fiscal year 2009-2010 will be reported in the Fall Newsletter. We will continue our policy of publishing a comparison of this year with the previous one. As always, we invite your questions and comments.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down from my role as Treasurer after four years to become President-Elect. I want to thank the members, the joint Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee for their support of EGPS. In addition, I want to recognize our administrator, Jan Vadell, who has been instrumental in helping me to monitor the financial health of our organization. I wish my successor, Patti Cox, PhD, CGP good fortune.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

2009 Co-Chairs: Patti L. Cox, Ph.D., CGP and Ed Elder MHS, M.Div

2010 Co-Chairs: Patti L. Cox, Ph.D., CGP and Ed Elder MHS, M.Div

2010 Co-Chair Designate: Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP

The 2009 Annual Conference, Co-Chaired by Patti L. Cox, PhD, CGP and Ed Elder MHS, M.Div, entitled, "Integration and Expansion: Leading Groups in a Changing World" was held at Riverside Church on November 20th and 21st. Margaret Postlewaite, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA and Barbara Feld, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA were the Plenary Co-Chairs. Alexandra Katehakis, MFT, CSAT, CST and Evangelina Holvino, EdD were the Plenary presenters. For the opening Plenary, Alex gave an informative lecture on the neurobiology of attachment that was extremely "user friendly." Fred Wright, PhD, led a demonstration group while Alex took notes about the various affect-rich interactions occurring in the group. Alex then outlined and commented upon numerous interactions in the demo group to illustrate the theoretical points she had made earlier in her talk. Her comments were then followed by a stimulating question and answer period. Evangelina Holvino headed up Saturday's Plenary with a brief talk about small and large group phenomena. Saturday's Plenary was very energetic with attendees working in small groups and then moving to other groups, as they grappled with how to translate Conference learnings into real life applications. We resurrected the Sunday Workshop, given by Alexandra Katehakis, as an opportunity for folks to get a more in-depth experience with Alex as well as augment monies paid to her.

The theme of our 2010 Conference is "Desire, Conflict, and Aggression: The Lifeblood of Groups". This year's theme is a spin-off from a rich brainstorming session with the EGPS Board of Directors, who offered many wonderful theme ideas. Planning is already underway and progressing smoothly. Once again, we are grateful to our talented group of Committee members without whom this enormous undertaking could not be attempted, much less successful! Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP, Conference Co-Chair Designate, has "hit the ground running" and has already contributed much to the planning of this year's Conference. Barbara Feld, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA and Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, SEP, FAGPA are Chairing the Plenary Sub-Committee. We are excited that John Schlapobersky, B.A. MSc, a training analyst at the Institute of Group Analysts, London, will conduct the opening Plenary, drawing on the Conference theme, and lead a demonstration group followed by a discussion moderated by Richard Billow, Ph.D., ABPP. Saturday's Plenary will be a stimulating presentation by The Seeds of Peace, an organization dedicated to empowering young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence. Bobbi Gottschalk will lead the Plenary with Elliot M. Zeisel, PhD, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA as discussant.

We are fortunate to have Dan Raviv, PhD, CGP and Chera Finnis, PsyD, CGP once again head up the 2010 Program Sub-

Committee. Their committee has worked long hours to develop a wonderfully diverse and exciting slate of programs that creatively represent the Conference theme. Doug Ruest, LCSW and Kari Taylor, PhD, are Co-Chairing the Site Sub-Committee and will no doubt round up a willing group of volunteers who can both answer questions and move furniture, and perform any other task that needs a last minute touch. We appreciate that Amy Kossoy, B.A., is willing to continue as Co-Chair of the Marketing Sub-Committee. Amy knows marketing like the back of her hand and will graciously pass along her knowledge and expertise to her new Co-Chair; we are currently interviewing people interested in taking on this role. Patricia Doyle, PhD, CGP and Fran Weiss, LCSW-R, BCD, DCSW, CGP will make sure our oral needs are satisfied and that attendees feel right at home as they Co-Chair the Hospitality Sub-Committee. The Conference Committee is re-evaluating the Faculty Dinner format and venue; Pat and Fran will coordinate the Committee's recommendations. Jonah Schwartz's, LCSW, role will expand this year to not only head up the Continuing Education arm of the Conference but also to more coherently develop the Ambassador Program and facilitate the sometimes nightmarish task of soliciting and administering Conference Scholarships. We welcome Gloria Gaev, LMSW to this year's Conference Committee as Jonah's Co-Chair of the Scholarship and Ambassador Program Sub-Committee. John Carr, who successfully coordinated the Sunday Workshop for last year's Conference, will coordinate it again this year. This year's Sunday Workshop, given by John Schlapobersky, B.A., MSc, will focus on the topic of couples work. Sherry Breslau, Ph.D., CGP has graciously agreed to serve as the First Time Attendee Liaison after coordinating a successful lunch last year for those attending the Conference for the first time.

John Schlapobersky, B.A., MSc and Phyllis Cohen, Ph.D., PsyD, CGP, FAGPA will lead the Large Group. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to compare and contrast leadership in the small group with leadership in the Large Group, since John will be leading a small group demonstration in the opening Plenary. Attendees will also have the opportunity to experience how the Conference themes of desire, conflict, and aggression are treated differently in the large and small group.

Finally, Jan Vadell, our wonderful administrator, provides the conceptual, logistical, emotional, and spiritual glue for the Conference Committee. Her years of experience and sage leadership enable the Conference Committee to troubleshoot each and every glitch and to maintain our serenity when the going gets particularly dicey!

We look forward to a Conference full of promise, fraught with desire, conflict, and aggression, amidst a multitude of experiences to stimulate and challenge the novice group therapist as well as the expert.

JOURNAL, *GROUP*

Dominick Grundy, PhD, Editor

Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP, Outgoing Managing Editor

Cheryl Gerson, LCSW, Incoming Managing Editor

Since the last report of March 2009, five issues of the journal have appeared, the most recent being a special issue on creative arts therapy (34.1) whose guest editors were Craig Haen, MA, RDT, LCAT, CGP and Joan Wittig BC-DMT, LCAT. The June issue, on the ideas of Jacques Lacan as applied to group therapy, has gone to the publisher. The next two this year will be special issues on group in non-clinical settings, edited by Roberta Slavin, PhD and group training programs in the USA and UK, edited by Walter Stone, MD, CGP, DFAGPA. (The EGPS Training Program has promised to submit a program description).

Although there have been a number of thematic issues recently, as Editor I would like to encourage EGPS members to submit writing on *any* aspect of group on which they would like to write. Please contact me at Grundyd4@earthlink.net if you think I could be helpful.

Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP is stepping down from, and Cheryl Gerson, LSCW is (bravely) assuming, the role of Managing Editor of the journal. Welcome! The main areas of responsibility lie in subscriptions, advertising and interfacing with the publisher. Lee Kassan, MA the Associate Editor, continues his hard work as regular copy editor and as Editorial Board member. Difficult manuscript questions and fine points of APA style go to him.

Barbara Cohn continues her work as Reviews Editor. We are going to try and interest publishers in placing an advertisement in an issue in which one of their books is being reviewed.

Walter Stone, MD, CGP, DFAGPA who has made valuable contributions to the journal this year, has been given the title of Senior Contributing Editor in recognition of his contributions. There have been a few additions and subtractions to the Editorial Board as well. These members are an important aspect of the journal because they review submitted articles, thus helping to maintain the quality of its work.

Thanks to Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA for working hard on an effective format for the journal on the newly revised EGPS website. Hopefully this will make it easy for prospective writers to review article titles and to contact the editor. It should also make it easier for those wishing to subscribe or advertise to contact the right people.

BROOKLYN DISCUSSION GROUP COMMITTEE

Greg MacColl, LCSW, CGP

We recently had a stirring discussion on "Healing Trauma through Groups" using Peter Levine's most recent book, *Healing Trauma*. Thirteen members attended as we made attempts to translate his insightful understanding of trauma into the group process. Ethel Barber, LCSW, again hosted this meeting. She has been very gracious in hosting most of the Brooklyn meetings, providing a wonderful setting for members to socialize and enjoy the lively discussions. Our next meeting will be June 27th, again at Ethel's home, where she also practices Individual and group therapy. We are excited about this meeting as we will discuss the recent article by J. Gans and E. Counselman, (2010). Patient Selection for Psychodynamic Group Psychotherapy: Practical and Dynamic Considerations. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*. 60, 197-220. These are two master practitioners who we are lucky to have written this article.

This June will mark the 2nd clinical year of the Brooklyn Professional Discussion Group. We are already gearing up to the fall program. Gary Brown, agreed to present on October 31 on "Carl Jung Comes to Group: Jungian Approaches to Group Work!" Presenters and topics for the September 26 and November 28th meetings are being sought.

We meet on the last Sunday of the month. Come and be a part of this exciting group! Please contact Greg MacColl, LCSW, CGP at 718-805-1660 or gregmaccoll@aol.com for more info.

LONG ISLAND DISCUSSION GROUP COMMITTEE

Greg MacColl, LCSW, CGP and Kari Taylor, PhD

Our group continues to hold exciting meetings. We want to thank those who have been so generous to hold the meetings in their homes: Arlene Grossman, LCSW, Judith Sharer, LCSW and Alan Pine, LCSW, Greg MacColl, LCSW, Roberta Schaefer, LCSW, Sheila Rindler, LCSW, Estelle Rauch, LCSW, and Felicia Cohn, LCSW. What an exciting and stimulating year it has been! Our May 9th meeting, "Understanding how Attention to the Rights of the Dying Help the Bereaved in the Group Setting" will be facilitated by Lorraine Fitzgerald, LCSW and hosted by Judith Schaefer, LCSW, and Alan Pine, LCSW. Our last meeting, June 13th, is still open for a topic and leader. Please contact Greg MacColl, LCSW, CGP at 718-805-1660 or gregmaccoll@aol.com for further info.

MANHATTAN PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION GROUP COMMITTEE

Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP, CASAC and Ronnie Levine, PhD, CGP, FAGPA

This year's Manhattan Professional Discussion Group had an exciting and diverse program. In the fall, Richard Beck, BCD, CGP, FAGPA conducted a very helpful and sensitive workshop entitled: "When Healing Hurts: Working with Psychological Trauma". Richard talked and demonstrated techniques and clinical issues working with trauma patients in group. In January, Bernie Frankel, Ph.D., ABPP, LCSW, LFAGPA, shared his experience and thoughtful insights with his excellent workshop on couples: "Couple Therapy: The Application of Therapist's Emotional Experience." Bernie focused on the value of the therapist's countertransference reactions in working with difficult and complex couple

interactions. In February, Lisa Litt, Ph.D. led a valuable workshop entitled: " When Trauma Meets Addiction: the Double Challenges of Recovery." Dr. Litt provided an overview of the challenges of treating trauma survivors, particularly women, who also struggle with substance misuse. She also reviewed some of the empirically supported interventions that she has utilized with this population. In March, Ted Ehrhardt, BC-DMT, CMA., LCAT highlighted the importance of nonverbal communications in his dynamic workshop entitled: " Non Verbal Communication Groups: What to Look for and How to Respond." Ted, a dance/movement therapist, provided a stimulating discussion on the non-verbal aspects of verbal communications group life.

Before our final April event, we had the misfortune of losing St Vincent's Hospital our site for all of our events. However with the support of the EGPS Board of Directors we were able to have a wonderful workshop using the beautiful facility of CMPS. Our speaker, Stephen Day Ellis, PhD, a modern psychoanalyst from Philadelphia, gave an engaging talk entitled: "The Discomfort Zone: Developing Resilience, Courage, Tact and Spontaneity through Transference and Resistance Workshops." Dr. Ellis focused on helping analytic candidates to tolerate a wide range of emotional experiences. His method is to run a group for analytic candidates and help them say whatever occurs to them - "to say everything"- and by doing so help them release and develop toleration for conflictual, contradictory and intense emotions. He reported that this component along with the analytic requirements (analysis, supervision and classes) provides an essential maturational experience for the students, which helps them to conduct successful treatment with disturbed populations.)

This was an excellent season and we are appreciative of the EGPS Community, the EGPS Board and Joan Wittig, BC-DMT, LCAT our Executive Committee liaison and Committee member for their support.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP

Newly appointed Membership Committee Co-Chair Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP and the Committee's Executive Committee Liaison, Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, began discussing the structure and goals of the newly re-conceptualized Membership Committee. Their discussions have included: defining the Membership Committee functions; the multiple benefits group therapy professionals would have access to by joining EGPS; and a detailed list differentiating between maintaining membership, obtaining new members, and marketing EGPS.

The Membership Committee has spearheaded several tasks for the year 2009/2010: all Board Members chose several names from the list of non-renewed EGPS members to say hello, request that they renew their membership and/or, inquire as to why they would not be renewing.

All new members for 2009/2010 have been called by Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP to welcome them to EGPS and give her contact information should they have any questions about EGPS as a new member.

We anticipate that a Co-Chair will be appointed soon and the Committee will be fully defining their structure and inviting Committee members in the next few months.

NEWSLETTER

Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA – Editor

The EGPS Newsletter was published twice in the last year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring. It offered group therapists' expertise regarding theory and technique, members' news, highlights from the Board of Directors meetings and various Committees/Task Forces, as well as information about the organization's upcoming events. The featured articles were authored by EGPS members, and national/international experts in group therapy.

The paid advertisements' section has further expanded in the last year, contributing to the Newsletter's increased revenue.

The Committee members are: Wayne Ayers, PhD, Neil Friedman MS.Ed and Amy Kossoy, BS.

PAST-PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

Richard Beck, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA Herbert Rabin, PhD, CGP, LFAGPA

Our focus has been to bring the wisdom and experience of EGPS Past-Presidents to guide and assist the current EGPS President, Executive Committee and Committee Chairs as they carry out their roles and tasks. We provided our knowledge of group therapists around the country to suggest presenters our Annual Conference. We assisted in fundraising endeavors for our organization.

The Past-President's Committee greatly benefited from the leadership of its previous Co-Chairs, Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA and Bert Weinblatt, PhD, CGP, LFAGPA

We are a think tank for our current EGPS Leadership, utilizing the wisdom and experience of Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, SEP, FAGPA; Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA; Jeffrey Kleinberg, PhD, CGP, FAGPA; Felicia Einhorn, LCSW, BCD, FAGPA; Janet Baumann, PhD, BCD, CGP; Phyllis Wright, CSW; Harold Bernard, PhD, ABPP, CGP, DFAGPA; Bruce Bernstein, PhD, ABPP, CGP, FAGPA; Bert Weinblatt, PhD, CGP, LFAGPA; Shirley Schechter Levine, MS, CGP, LFAGPA; and Bernie Frankel, PhD, BCD, LFAGPA.

We have implemented, a listserv amongst the Past Presidents. This listserv allows us to communicate with each other on a wide variety of topics. It has helped to create a unique cohesiveness amongst the Past Presidents of this organization that is powerful and helpful to the organization at many levels

REFERRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mary V. Sussillo, LCSW, BCD, CGP

Last year, the Referral Service functioned with three Co-Chairs, Kathie Ault, MS, NP, CGP, Stephanie Kravec, LCSW, CSAT and Mary Sussillo, LCSW, BCD, CGP with Neal Spivack, PhD as our Executive Committee liaison.

Kathie handled the large responsibility of updating, and maintaining a specialties list, a group list and an insurance panels list. (Only active members who submit copies of both their license and malpractice are eligible to be included on these lists.) Stephanie was responsible for handling referral inquiries and for connecting potential group members to appropriate groups. She also developed a concise flier about the benefits of group therapy and provided contact information. (The flier can be downloaded from the EGPS website by the membership for publicity purposes, and for basic information for visitors to the site.) Mary served as community outreach liaison marketing EGPS groups on list-servs, and through collegial contacts, formal and informal.

This year, the Referral Service is in the process of integrating changes in leadership and committee focus. Kathie Ault has recently stepped down; Stephanie Kravec will do the same as of May 21, 2010. Stephanie has been a dedicated Co-Chair of the Referral Service for 12 years. Her long-standing commitment and contributions are deeply acknowledged. The Referral Service is seeking another Co-Chair for the role of community outreach liaison, and another committee member with good, basic computer skills for maintaining the above-mentioned lists.

Going forward, the Referral Service is adapting some of its functions to the new EGPS listserv. Since active members can now make referrals directly to each other, the Referral Service will focus on responding to phone and email inquiries from visitors to our website (seeking groups for themselves, friends and family members), and to requests from professionals (primarily non-EGPS professionals) who are seeking group recommendations for their clients.

The Referral Service will update the in-network insurance list of active members since most requests from potential group members are for therapists on in-network insurance panels. Moreover, the Referral Service will continue its outreach efforts to such organizations as hospitals, agencies, mental health training programs/institutes, Employee Assistance Programs, Student Assistance Programs, substance abuse and other addictions programs, and to non-traditional settings.

SPRING EVENT COMMITTEE

Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP and Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP

This year's EGPS Spring Event is being co-sponsored with the Creative Arts Department at the Pratt Institute on 14th Street in Manhattan for a third year. Joan Wittig, MS, ADTR, LCAT, Chair of the Creative Arts Department at Pratt Institute and EGPS Secretary has again been instrumental in facilitating the co-sponsoring of the Spring Event with Pratt.

Last year's altered format for the buffet supper was a popular success, and so it will once again be served early in the evening. Dr. Susan Gantt will present ***"Developing the Group Mind: Applying Neurobiology to Group Therapy"***. The audience will be encouraged to participate in and respond to the presentation. The evening will conclude with coffee, tea and dessert served in Pratt's community room.

Along with Lynn and Sherry, there are a number of people who are key in the production of this event. Included are Jan Vadell, EGPS Administrator, Joan Wittig, MS, ADTR, LCAT, Amy Kossoy, BA and Lee Kassan, MA, CGP.

Last year's event, (also Co-Chaired by Lynn Pearl and Sherry Breslau), was successful and well-attended and we look forward to another good year. Lee Kassan has been designated Co-Chair of Spring Event for 2011.

TRAINING PROGRAM

Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP and Marie Rothschild, LCSW, CGP, Co-Directors

The Training Program is completing its 21st successful year since its inception in 1989. The success of the Program is in no small part due to the Deans: Alan Shanel, LCSW, CGP, Dean of Faculty; Phyllis Wright, LCSW, CGP, Dean of Curriculum; Anne McEaney, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, and Ellen Rubin, PsyD, Co-Deans of Admissions. The generosity of time and effort, creativity, and expansive perspectives of our faculty, supervisors and experiential leaders, has contributed immensely to the ongoing development of the Program and ensured its success: Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA; Barbara Cohn, PhD, ABPP, LFAGPA, Chera Finnis, PsyD, CGP; Mildred Forrell, MA, LCSW, LPSyA, CGP; Lena Furgeri, EdD, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA; Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA; Ronnie Levine, PhD, CGP, FAGPA; Shelly Menolascino, MD; Paul Schienberg, PhD, CGP; Leah Slivko, LCSW, PSYCHA; and Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP.

The graduating class this year is 14 strong...a group from diverse disciplines who have worked very well together. The second year group is a group of 5 made up of former one-year students. This group is a supervision group which meets weekly during the entire year.

The annual solicitation for the J. Dustin Nichols Scholarship Fund has allowed the Training Program to fund two partial scholarships during this year.

Due to the demise of St. Vincent's Hospital, which has been our home for several years, we have moved the Program to Beth Israel Hospital. They graciously provided us with a home in which to complete this year. We are considering other locations for next year, as well as Beth Israel

We have enjoyed our first year as Co-Directors very much and thank the Deans and the Faculty for making the transition a smooth one.

WEBSITE TASK FORCE

Margaret Postlewaite, PhD., CGP, FAGPA and Jonah Schwartz. LCSW

The EGPS Website Task Force is happy to announce that a designer has been chosen to reorganize and reconfigure the EGPS website. This selection followed a long process of conducting a needs assessment with the EGPS Board of Directors and reviewing proposals from several designers. The Task Force believes that the successful proposal combines the necessary elements of cost effectiveness, reliability, and commitment to an excellent working relationship. The Board voted to fund the redesign, as well as ongoing maintenance.

The Task Force is currently engaged in assembling information from all of the Committees/Task Forces and reformatting this to ensure clarity and uniformity. A high priority has also been placed on ease of use for EGPS members and casual

browsers alike, not to mention increased esthetic appeal. A new, redesigned website will effectively “brand” EGPS and carry its message and its mission of promoting “group approaches to the human services” to an ever expanding audience. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force are Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, and Jonah Schwartz, LCSW. They have been joined by Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP and Jan Vadell, the EGPS Administrator.

In updating the online directory of therapists and group listings, Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, and Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, have entered the most current information of those EGPS members wishing to be listed online. For those whose information is missing or needs updating, links to the appropriate forms and directions can be found on the EGPS website, www.egps.org.

WHY GROUP THERAPY WORKSHOP TASK FORCE

Susan Frankel, LCSW, CGP, Robin Good, PhD, CGP, Mary V. Sussillo, LCSW, BCD, CGP

A low-cost three-hour evening workshop on the pros and cons of group therapy and combined individual and group therapy, is being presented on Friday, October 15, 2010, as a service to the mental health community during these harsh economic times, and as a means to demystify group therapy and promote EGPS.

The workshop will include a didactic presentation, a demo group and discussion followed by networking with EGPS' Board Members and Committee/Task Force Co-Chairs. The target audience is primarily students, new professionals and established therapists who do not conduct groups.

The workshop venue will be the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies, 16 West 10 Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.

A promotional flyer will be available shortly for student and professional listservs, agencies, hospitals, university counseling programs, chaplaincies, EAP's , addiction programs and so forth.

We would like to acknowledge Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA for her wise suggestion to explore this project, Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, SEP, FAGPA for his guidance as Task Force liaison, and Jan Vadell, Administrator, for her ongoing enthusiasm and wealth of ideas for this project.

HOSTING SOCIETY TASK FORCE FOR THE AGPA ANNUAL MEETING (2011 & 2012)

Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD

EGPS will be hosting AGPA's Annual Meeting in New York February 28 to March 5th, 2011. They will also hold their Meeting in New York in 2012. The Hosting Committee is being Chaired by Michelle Collins-Greene, Ph.D. with Jan Vadell in assistance. Hospitality Co-Chairs are Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP and Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP; Marketing Co-Chairs are Carol Dallinga, LCSW and Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP; Program Subcommittee Chairs are Chera Finnis, PsyD and Dan Raviv, PhD, CGP, FAGPA. The Chairs and Subcommittee Chairs have had one meeting so far for planning purposes. All the Sub-Committees have been in the process of adding committee members for which many EGPS members have volunteered. There is an ongoing list of volunteers so anyone can contact Michelle or Jan with their interest at any time as the Annual Meeting approaches. Jan and Michelle had a planning meeting with Angela Stephens, Marsha Block, and Lise Motherwell to formulate the collaboration process between EGPS and AGPA. The Program Sub-Committee (Dan and Chera) has started their work in offering suggestions for speakers and workshop leaders at AGPA, and have endorsed EGPS members who sent their proposals to AGPA. They attended AGPA's Program Planning Meeting last week.