

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**Peter J. Taylor, PhD, SEP, CGP, FAGPA**

As should be true in any healthy organization, the past year in the life of EGPS has been a year of both business-as-usual and new developments. This report highlights both the very successful business-as-usual and the new developments, and it acknowledges those who have managed and contributed to the organization and its activities with such dedication, creativity, and thoughtfulness throughout the year. I encourage you to read the individual reports which follow to understand just how much has been done, and how well.

Your elected Officers and Members-at-Large, who comprise the elected Board, are charged with holding a vision of EGPS as a whole. These elected Board members, together with the appointed Chairs of Committees and Task Forces, comprise the Joint Board, which meets monthly to coordinate our various activities, consult with and support one another, and make decisions about our overall direction, schedule, and organizational functioning.

Most of our activities are managed by Committees or Task Forces. These are usually co-chaired, so that responsibilities are shared, and most also depend on members who do a lot of the work and participate in decision-making and vision-setting. We have asked that the Committee and Task Force Chairs include in the reports that follow the names of their Committee and Task Force members both to give a sense of how many people actively participate in the functioning of our organization and to thank all of them publicly. The contributions of each one are significant, and we are grateful for their dedication.

The **Executive Committee**, consisting of Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, President-Elect; Barbara Feld, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, Secretary; Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP, Treasurer; and myself, meet weekly by conference call with Jan Vadell, our Administrator. We track the challenges, crises, solutions, and achievements that continue to unfold on a weekly—sometimes daily or hourly—basis. With each Committee and Task Force assigned one of the Executive Committee as a liaison, it is usually a straightforward matter to provide or seek consultation, to check on the status of a project or a decision, and to coordinate logistics between the monthly Board meetings.

The major event of every year is our **Annual Conference** in November. The 2008 Conference, Co-Chaired by Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP, and Patti Cox, PhD, CGP, focused on “Mutual Desires, Mutual Growth: How Therapists Evolve with Their Groups.” The Conference again supported the Membership Committee’s **Ambassador Program**—which invites two agencies working with underserved populations to send two staff members to the Conference as our guests, to serve as ambassadors from their agencies to EGPS and from EGPS back to their agencies—and many Conference attendees were energized by the participation of the Ambassadors, especially during our concluding Plenary session featuring renowned psychodramatist Louise Lipman, LCSW, TEP, CGP, CET III.

The Plenary sessions were dramatically enhanced by the debut our new sound system, made possible by members’ generous donations to our new **Fund for Special Projects**. For the first time in living memory, demonstration groups were fully audible! We gratefully acknowledge the leadership of the Fund’s Honorary Chair, Phyllis Cohen, PhD, PsyD, CGP, LFAGPA, and her husband, Walter Goldstein, who kicked off the drive with their own sizable contribution and then gave a champagne reception in January to thank all those who gave \$200 or more. And we are deeply appreciative to all who gave—plans are in the works for a celebration for all the contributors, including those who continue to give, since the sound system is not yet fully funded.

The 2009 Conference, chaired by Patti and her new Co-Chair Edward Elder, MDiv, LMHC, with the theme “Integration and Expansion: Leading Groups in a Changing World,” promises to be a rich opportunity for learning and networking. The Program and Plenary Subcommittees are hard at work reviewing proposals and developing innovative presentations on topics relevant to both our left and right brains. Participant feedback on our Conferences continues to comment on how warmly welcoming, smoothly managed, and professionally stimulating these two days are each year, and that is of course a tribute to superb management by the Conference Committee, who work all year ‘round to make it look so easy.

The **Professional Discussion Groups** began years back as a series of small gatherings throughout the year. Long-time Chair Ronnie Levine, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, now joined by Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP, as Co-Chair, has continued to choose just the right topics and speakers—so, as in recent years, they now draw crowds! But we remain committed to smaller gatherings, as well, that often develop a sense of professional family. Greg MacColl, MSW, CGP, continues to shepherd our monthly **Long Island Discussion Groups** with a personal touch and the assistance of dedicated members—and has created a second monthly series of **Brooklyn Discussion Groups**, which has already developed a dedicated membership who have taken on many of the tasks associated with managing their meetings. We are happy to have such active subgroups of members within EGPS and to benefit from the cross-fertilization between these smaller groups and the organization as a whole.

The **Spring Event** this year is Co-Chaired by Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP, and Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP. Responding to creative ideas from the Board and the membership, they have revised the format to feed us earlier; to provide a speaker, in Joseph Shay, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, who will both entertain and enlighten us; and to top it all off with dessert and socializing at the end of what should be a wonderful evening. The Spring Event is also the annual Business Meeting of the organization, so it includes our Annual Report and the transition between outgoing and incoming officers and elected Board members. Most notably, this year, Barbara Feld is completing her second term as Secretary and her twelfth? year on the Board of Directors—no one can quite remember! She has served in so many important roles and so well, that we can just barely let her go. But part of my message as President has been that we all need to have lives to go along with our organizational participation, and Barbara has decided to call me on it. We wish her well and know we'll continue to benefit from her wisdom in many ways for years to come.

We are in a long-term process of re-conceptualizing the **Membership Committee** to house more of our organizational undertakings related to membership, including functions of collegiality, diversity, mentoring, and certain kinds of outreach, such as the Ambassador Program. At the same time, the Committee continues to manage the administrative issues of membership, including processing membership applications and reviewing membership categories. Both the Committee's hard-working co-chairs, Douglas Ruest, LCSW, and Joan Wittig, MS, ADTR, LCAT, are moving to other responsibilities and the Executive Committee is considering who will be asked to continue this important work.

Communication among members is important in an organization of group therapists. The **Newsletter Committee** publishes two issues of our Newsletter each year, and manages under the dedicated editorship of Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA, to make each issue more interesting and informative than the last. During the early part of the year, Jonah Schwartz, LCSW, and Shuki Cohen, PhD, Co-Chairs of the **Website Development Task Force**, sought a pro bono web designer to create a new website for us. Shuki has needed to step down, but Jonah will continue as Chair in moving this effort forward, researching the costs and technical aspects of developing the best possible website to suit our organizational needs. In the meantime, Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, keeps our current website up-to-date with information about all our activities.

Communication across our organizational boundary is also important. The **Referral Service and Group Listing Committee** Co-Chairs, Stephanie Kravec, LCSW, SAP, CSAT, Kathie Ault, APRN, BC, CGP, and Mary Sussillo, LCSW, BCD, have produced several important documents which represent a tremendous amount of work: lists of members' psychotherapy groups and clinical specialties that will be updated annually and can be distributed not only to members but to a wide variety of referral sources. They welcome ideas for wider dissemination of this important information, which took so much effort to assemble.

The **Community Outreach Task Force** completed its work, offering a number of trainings, yet ultimately determining that the amount of effort expended was beyond the scope of a group of volunteers, no matter how dedicated. And dedicated they were—under Co-Chairs Patti Cox and Jonah Schwartz, the Task Force produced a comprehensive and thoughtful document recording their efforts and recommendations for the organization's future use. Every member of the Task Force has continued in other roles in the organization, including Susan Frankel, MSW, CGP, who is working with Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, and Mary Sussillo, LCSW, BCD, in a new "**Why Group Psychotherapy?**" **Workgroup**, to develop a different kind of training: a low-cost or free training that could be offered to therapists and other referral sources who aren't familiar with group psychotherapy, to help them become more familiar with the benefits of group and the indications for a successful referral. These three were asked to represent the Community Outreach Task Force, the Training Program, and the Referral Service, respectively, to determine where in the organization such a venture might "live," and they have developed a set of recommendations which the Board is about to take up. This is a wonderful example of collaboration among Committees that can take on a life of its own and serve us all well.

This year, Martin Livingston, PhD, CGP, the long-time Editor of our renowned **Journal, GROUP**, relinquished his role after many years of skillful service. A Search Committee Chaired by Barbara Feld recommended that we appoint Dominick Grundy, PhD, CGP, as our new Editor. Dominick began working with Marty immediately and as of January 1<sup>st</sup> has been at the helm, in what has been a seamless and easy transition. And as she takes up the role of President of EGPS, Michelle Collins-Greene is passing the role of Managing Editor to Neal Spivack; we are grateful that Neal is ready to take up this important role and work with Dominick to keep the journal healthy and influential, disseminating its writers' wisdom and knowledge about group psychotherapy within and beyond the boundaries of our membership.

Leon Schein, MSW, EdD, CGP, the Director of our award-winning **One-Year Training Program**, working with a gifted faculty of instructors, supervisors, and experiential group leaders, and the four Deans of the Training Program, Phyllis Wright, MSW, Alan Shanel, MS, LCSW, BCD, CGP, Anne McEaney, PhD, CGP, and Ellen Rubin, PsyD, CGP, have established a training in group psychotherapy second to none. This year was remarkable in that we had a full class during an economy in which some other professional programs needed to suspend operations. With the program so healthy, Leon has also chosen to move on to other pursuits, and a Search Committee he chaired recommended the appointment of Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP, and Marie Rothschild, LCSW, BCD, CGP, as Co-Directors to succeed Leon as of

July 1<sup>st</sup>. Leon has been working closely with Jim, Marie, and the Deans to ensure a smooth transition, and we look forward to seeing the Program continue its success, evolving to meet new challenges and taking advantage of new opportunities.

Long before they were appointed Co-Directors Designate of the Training Program, Jim and Marie had agreed to Co-Chair our coming **Fundraiser**, which will take place at Riverside Church the evening of June 7<sup>th</sup>. The highly appropriate coincidence is that the celebration they are Co-Chairing honors the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Training Program. Please join us for wine, cheese, music, dancing, and reconnecting with so many of the program's students and faculty from the last two decades. When you think of it, we're all beneficiaries of the Training Program, since the work of well-trained group therapists enhances the standing of group psychotherapy for us all.

Once again, we had a wonderful slate of candidates for our recent elections. Michelle Collins-Greene chaired the **Nominating Committee**, which offered us nothing but excellent choices, both candidates who have already contributed extensively to the organization and candidates who bring great expertise from other areas of their professional lives but are new to EGPS governance. As in any election, some candidates were not elected—at least, not this time!—but they have all expressed their enthusiastic interest in taking up other roles, so we won't lose their voices, their energy, or their expertise.

Every EGPS Annual Report since 2003 has thanked our incomparable **Administrator**, Jan Vadell, and the words are never enough. If there are any regrets I have in writing my final report as President, the most heartfelt regret is that I will no longer have formal opportunities to thank Jan for all she does for us. She is our institutional memory, our perspective and reality-check, our best reminder to keep a sense of humor, and our mainframe computer and server all in one. She understands group process better than any group therapist I know, and she loves group therapists and group therapy and this organization. I guess we must be doing something right, to deserve her!

As this is my final report as President to the membership, I would like to thank you for the opportunity, the challenge, and the satisfaction of serving in this role. I followed a very hard act to follow: Margaret Postlewaite set a high standard for warmth, inclusivity, and enthusiasm, and she always listened for the wisdom of the group. I learned from her during her presidency and she has graciously remained a ready consultant to me in these following two years. I have tried to foster the continued growth of EGPS as a well-managed professional space for learning, networking, and good self-care. In large part through the extraordinary commitment of our Administrator, my fellow Officers, and a joint Board of Directors that manages the high-wire balancing act of attending to thoughts and feelings, the accomplishment of necessary tasks and good self-care—through the work of all these members of my group, I know I leave the organization ready for future generations of leadership to take us all ever further into our changing world. There are so many members of EGPS with such expertise and such passion that I know Michelle Collins-Greene, our incoming President, will have all the support she needs, and so will the President after her, and on and on.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**  
**Barbara Feld, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA**

The Secretary is responsible for the permanent records from the Board meetings and distributes the minutes to Board members and Committee Chairs by e-mail for review before the Joint Board meets each month. This allows corrections to be made and serves as a reminder to Committee Chairs and the elected Board of their responsibilities between meetings and of their need to report at the next Board meeting. The Secretary also has responsibility for taking notes of the Executive Committee's weekly conference calls and forwarding them to the Executive Committee members for review. This allows the EC to have a record of the decisions made during the conference call and reminds them of the tasks they agreed to accomplish that week. The Secretary is also Liaison to the Professional Discussion Group, the Brooklyn Discussion Group, and the Newsletter Committee. The liaison responsibility for the Spring Event and the Conference switched mid-year to the President Elect. This function has been working well for these Committees and there is an interchange and consultation between the Committees and the Liaison.

**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 2009, EGPS appears again to be financially stable. Our Fall Conference earned money for the third year in a row. The Professional Discussion Group (PDG) continues to attract large audiences and good revenues. The Training Program was again able to attract 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. Our Newsletter has also contributed through an increase in ad revenue. In addition, we look forward to revenues from our biannual fundraiser to be held in June 2009 and our 2009 Spring Event.

Through the generosity of our members and others, we have been able to raise money for scholarships and special projects. The balance for J. Dustin Nichols Scholarship Fund is ahead of last year. With nearly \$13,000 in total contributions over the past three years, and the Fund for Special Projects, EGPS was able to purchase a portable sound system. The sound cost \$16,000, however, and EGPS currently needs to reimburse itself \$3,225 from the purchase. In addition, we wish to purchase speakers for the sound system; additional funds will need to be raised to support these purchases.

We have been financially health enough to give our administrator her annual cost-of-living increases. As planned, we set up separate accounts for the J. Dustin Nichols Scholarship Fund and the Fund for Special Projects. The latter fund has been exhausted, and the separate account for the Fund for Special Projects has been ended. Separating out these special funds from our general funds has made our accounting easier.

We will enter the 2009-10 fiscal year with a reserve to support our many activities. A financial summary for fiscal year 2008-2009 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.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**2008 Co-chairs: Sherry Breslau, Ph.D., CGP and Patti L. Cox, Ph.D., CGP**  
**2009 Co-chairs: Patti L. Cox, Ph.D., CGP and Ed Elder M.H.S., M.Div.**

The theme of the 2008 Annual Conference, Co-Chaired by Sherry Breslau, Ph.D., CGP and Patti L. Cox, Ph.D., CGP, was "Mutual Desires, Mutual Growth: How Therapists Evolve With Their Groups", and was held at Riverside Church on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> and Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mary Nicholas, LCSW, Ph.D., and Margaret Postlewaite, Ph.D., CGP were the Plenary Co-Chairs. Kathy Ulman, Ph.D., CGP, and Louise Lipman, LCSW, CGP were the Plenary presenters. For the opening Plenary, Kathy used a consultation group model to address dilemmas that therapists face in their groups, and how these can provide opportunities for mutual growth for both therapist and group members. She arranged for the participants to be chosen ahead of time, so she could teach them her model and not lose time selecting people once the Plenary commenced. David Altfeld, Ph.D., CGP and Ronnie Levine, Ph.D., CGP were the discussants for the opening Plenary. Louise Lipman headed up Saturday's Plenary with first leading us all in relaxation exercises. She then demonstrated psychodrama techniques with the able help of various brave volunteers. Jacob Gershoni, LCSW, CGP, TEP and Mark Ettin, Ph.D., CGP were the discussants and focused on how these psychodramatic principles can be utilized in ongoing psychotherapy groups.

The theme of our 2009 Conference is "Integration and Expansion: Leading Groups in a Changing World." We are well underway in our planning for this year and are pleased to have a wonderful team. Without these truly dedicated Committee members, the Conference would not be possible! Margaret Postlewaite, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA and Barbara Feld, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA are Chairing the Plenary Sub-Committee. We are seeking speakers who can demonstrate and integrate both neurobiology and attachment theoretical principles into our group work. Saturday's Plenary promises to end the Conference with a participatory experience for attendees, which will be reflective of the Conference theme. Dan Raviv, Ph.D., and Chera Finnis, Psy.D, CGP, are heading up the 2009 Program Sub-Committee. Already their Sub-committee has reviewed the program proposals that were submitted and report being very pleased with the both the content and diversity of submissions. Doug Ruest, LCSW and Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP, are Co-Chairing the Site Sub-Committee. Amy Kossoy, B.S. and Gary Singer, LCSW, will chair the Marketing Sub-Committee. Marie Rothschild, LCSW, BCD, CGP and Lena Friedman, LCAT, CGP are back as our Hospitality Sub-Committee Co-Chairs. Jonah Schwartz, LCSW, is in the role of Continuing Education Coordinator, based on the wonderful job he did for the 2008 Conference, obtaining CASAC approval for ten workshops. We are pleased to have both Haim Weinberg, Ph.D., CGP, and Martha Gillmore, Ph.D., CGP, return to lead the Large Group. Finally, we could not contemplate nor execute any of the Conference planning and events without our wonderful administrator, Jan Vadell.

We anticipate that this year's theme will stimulate a wealth of dynamic, intellectual, theoretical and personal interchanges among group therapists as we confront the changes, both economic and political, that have happened over the last year. By finding ways to integrate new techniques and theories into our practices we should be able to thrive and grow, even in "interesting" times.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH TASK FORCE**  
**Patti L. Cox, PhD, CGP and Jonah Schwartz, LCSW**

Since its inception in April 2006, the Community Outreach Task Force has been charged with facilitating the provision of group work trainings by EGPS members in clinics, social service agencies, schools and hospitals. The membership consisted of Patti Cox, PhD, CGP and Jonah Schwartz, LCSW, Co-chairs; Greg MacColl, LCSW, CGP; Shoshana Ben-Noam, PhD, CGP; Edward Elder, MDiv; and Susan Frankel, LCSW, CGP. After a long process of internal discussion, and

in consultation with the EGPS Board of Directors and Executive Committee, the Task Force has decided to cease its operations. The Task Force has met its primary objective of assessing the feasibility of providing group work training in the community through EGPS. The members have condensed their experiences into a written narrative that was presented to the Board, and which will inform future organizational policy on this matter. The Task Force would like to thank the Board, the Executive Committee, and particularly those individual EGPS members who provided trainings in the community, usually on a *pro bono* basis.

**2009 FUNDRAISER**  
**Marie Rothschild, MSW, BCD, CGP and Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP**

The 2009 fundraiser on June 7, 2009, at Riverside Church, promises to be a festive event. We anticipate a wonderful turnout to honor and celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our award winning EGPS Training Program. Bruce Bernstein, PhD, CGP, FAGPA and Ken Porter, MD, CGP, as co-founders of the Training Program, will share their thoughts about the program's early beginnings, and Robin Good, Ph.D., CGP, who has been on the faculty from its beginnings until now, will share her thoughts about the way the program has evolved. As promised we will have a live jazz trio, dancing, a Chinese auction, and a memory book to commemorate the evening.

Committee Members: Kathie Ault, APRN, BC; Lena Friedman, MPS, ATR-BC, LCAT; and Amy Kossoy, BA, and Jan Vadell, EGPS Administrator

**JOURNAL, GROUP**  
**Dominick Grundy, PhD, Editor**  
**Marty Livingston, PhD, CGP, Immediate Past Editor**  
**Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, Managing Editor**

The March, 2009 (33.1) issue of the Journal has appeared, and the June issue (33.2) has gone to the publisher. The September issue (33.3) is currently in preparation, with a final deadline of May 4. Writers of articles for the December issue (33.4) have been given an April deadline for their first draft. (More detailed information is given below).

In the active planning stages are an issue on Lacan, an issue on use of group in educational (non-clinical) settings, and an issue on group training with sampling from various training centers. If these plans materialize as expected, this should take the Journal to the end of 2010 and on into 2011. General issues with articles that are not thematically related will appear from time to time, and such submissions are welcome ([Grundyd4@earthlink.net](mailto:Grundyd4@earthlink.net)). The editor would also appreciate suggestions for possible 2012 issues.

The Editorial Board has been expanded because of the need for active reviewers of submissions. Some current members of this Board have been asked to do more than their fair share, and the Editor would like to thank them for their hard work. The Editorial Board needs members who are fluent in foreign languages, especially French, German and Italian. If any EGPS member can recommend someone, the Editor would appreciate it. The Journal could also use someone with strong experimental research skills to act as consultant from time to time. (The Editor last used statistics in his dissertation and has not refreshed his knowledge, sad to say).

The "Instructions to Contributors" section at the end of the Journal has been rewritten so as to help writers understand what is currently expected. No more disks or 5 hard copies. With the exception of one last step, the operation is electronic.

When the new EGPS website is ready, the plan is to keep the link to the Journal updated with current information for potential subscribers and contributors. When writers consider submitting to a journal, they often evaluate the journal's website first. We need to be competitive here.

Details: Below is more specific information on the current issue and those in the near future. The thematic issues were planned in 2008 and were due to start with 33.2. However, the need to recognize the contributions of Louis Ormont who died in November last year, meant that 33.2 had to be a second general issue, created rather quickly. The thematic issues were therefore deferred till 33.3. The Editor appreciates the patience of these guest editors; their selected writers no doubt appreciated their expanded deadlines. (Some titles below are abbreviated)

33.1 (March 2009):

Reflections and conceptualizations: A professional odyssey- Marty Livingston  
A self psychological perspective of group development -Walter Stone & Gil Spielberg  
Excitement: A crucial marker for group psychotherapy -Stewart Aledort  
Psychodynamic group therapy in a nursing home-Sheldon Firstenberg  
A variety of borders in the treatment of borderline disorders-Isaac Youcha  
33.2 (June 2009):

Special section on Louis Ormont: Elliot Zeisel; Michael Brook; Lena Furgeri; Mary Sussillo; Bernard Frankel; Michelle Collins-Greene; Editor

First build the system-Yvonne Agazarian & Claudia Byram

Reflections on Lacan, music, attachment theory and group-Scott Conkright

Two therapy session rooms: Combined outpatient psychotherapy-Antonella Ivaldi

33.3 (September 2009):

Theme: Lesbian, gay and bisexual issues. Guest Editor Peter Taylor

33.4 (December 2009):

Theme: Psychodrama. Guest Editor Mary Nicholas

34.1 (March 2010):

Theme: Creative arts therapies. Guest Editors Craig Haen & Joan Wittig

Acknowledgements:

In all of the above, reviews have either appeared or will be appearing. The Book Reviews Editor is Barbara Cohn, PhD, who has seen several Editors come and go, and the current Editor would like to acknowledge her hard work. She has done double duty as a reliable member of the Editorial Board.

Lee Kassan, MA, the Associate Editor, continues his hard work as regular copy editor and as Editorial Board member—a double stint. Tricky manuscript questions go to him.

Unfortunately for the Journal, Michelle Collins-Greene, Managing Editor, will step aside as she assumes the mantle of her new position at EGPS. The new Managing Editor will be Neal Spivack, PhD,—welcome.

The Editor is grateful to Peter Taylor for being encouraging and helpful at the outset. There is always potential tension between the roles of Journal Editor and Guest Editor, and Peter has demonstrated diplomatic skill in both standing up for his writers and managing the Editor when he was being “difficult.”

The Editor would like to thank Jan Vadell for her supportive administrative work on which a new Editor (and Joint Board member) often relied.

Last, but not least, the Editor would like to thank Marty Livingston who patiently answered nervous questions and gave helpful counsel. If the transition has been smooth, this is largely due to him.

**LONG ISLAND AND BROOKLYN DISCUSSION GROUPS**  
**Greg MacColl, LCSW, CGP, Liaison to the Board of Directors**

Long Island Professional Discussion Group

We are approaching the end of another very successful year! Topics have ranged from Alison Pepper's discussion on being a women executive and the challenges of business group dynamics, to a lively discussion on the episodes of 'In-Treatment,' to Handling Money Issues by Shoshana Ben-Noam, PhD, to the recent presentation by Marian Weisberg, LCSW, on Transactional Analysis, just to name a few. We will be ending the year with a retreat for the care-givers, that's us, which will include meditation, art, and other forms of relaxation. Our groups are a mix of discussion and social, a chance for members to meet and chat, discuss what is going on both in their personal lives and their professional ones as well. We are open to all professional disciplines, whether you are beginning your journey or have years under your belt, whether you have several groups or just finding your way. Felicia Cohn, LCSW, CGP, program coordinator, has been instrumental in getting out the revised format of our topic descriptions as well as supporting us in matters of running this group. It could not have happened without her. Our meetings have been well attended. Members have been gracious in providing their homes for presentations, another factor which is important for our continued success. We work together as a team, supporting one another, encouraging each other to present, reaching out in time of need. It has been a joy for me to be a part of this special group! I look forward to our continuing forward with exciting topics, good food, warm and inviting homes and welcoming members!

Brooklyn Professional Discussion Group

It hardly seems possible, but we are approaching the end of our first year as a group! We meet on the last Sunday of the month. It seems like such a long time ago (only back on October 26, 2008) when Tracy Morgan, LCSW, started off our first meeting with 'Group Sex! Encounters with Erotic Transference' at her home. (What a spicy title to start us off!) We continue to grow and Ethel Barber, LCSW, has been so gracious in offering her home on numerous occasions! She also gave a excellent presentation, at the home of Marge Blaine, LCSW, on 'The Experience of Loss' which stirred up a sensitive discussion for all. Julie Sullivan-Redmond, LCSW, presented on the Do's and Don'ts of creating successful Groups! The EGPS Board gave us their blessing and we are grateful for their support. Amy Kossoy has assisted us. Ady Ben-Israel has been instrumental in setting up a listserv. Rob Handleman, PsyD plans to present this month on 'Mindfulness in Psychotherapy'. We have already become an intimate group, mindful of one another and respectful of

each of our special talents. We are looking forward to many more exciting presentations, warm and welcoming homes, and good food and company! Why not take a chance and join us one Sunday afternoon?

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Douglas H. Ruest, LCSW and Joan Wittig, MS, ADTR, LCAT**

The Membership Committee got a new liaison to the Executive Committee this year. Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, SEP, President of EGPS, took over from Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP. Neal had expertly guided the Committee for the past 2 years. However, this year the Executive Committee began to think about expanding the scope of the Committee, and so Peter, as President, took on the task of helping to define this expansion.

The Membership Committee started the year by continuing its work in defining possible new membership categories, specifically looking at the possibility of developing a category for Institutional membership, which would allow institutions to send a set number of employees to EGPS events as members, to receive the Journal, and to reap other benefits such as advertising in the newsletter, etc. Though specific details are still to be worked out, it is likely this category will be formalized when bylaws are revised.

The Committee continues to discuss ways of recruiting new members. Manny Shapiro, PhD, CGP made contact with AGPA to discuss sharing of membership contact information. After the initial contact with AGPA, Peter Taylor continued this exploration, which is still under consideration. Another possible recruitment idea still under consideration is that of creating some sort of mentorship program, with experienced EGPS members providing some sort of consultation to new members at no cost. This exciting idea has yet to be further developed.

The Membership Committee remains active around the Annual Conference. Doug, along with Ed Elder, MDiv and Amy Kossoy, BA, again oversaw the Ambassador Program, inviting two agencies to send two clinicians each to the conference at no cost, as a way of including professionals who might not otherwise attend. Of some interest was the difficulty we had in locating interested parties to participate in this program this year. In the end the Veteran's Hospital, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, did choose to participate, and were enthusiastic about the Conference.

Doug, along with Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP, oversaw the volunteers for the Annual Conference. The Membership Committee focused on recruiting students from the EGPS Training Program as volunteers in hopes of encouraging them to stay connected to EGPS after they finish their training. The volunteers were outstanding and contributed immensely to the smooth running of the Conference.

The EGPS Board agreed that this year we should focus on welcoming first-time Conference attendees, without attempting to recruit them as new members, as we did not want to put people off by inadvertently creating pressure.

Throughout this year the EC has been discussing the role of the Membership Committee, and agrees that this Committee could be expanded to provide a more over-arching service to EGPS. The EC has a number of ideas regarding recruitment and retention of members, monitoring member benefits, monitoring and addressing diversity of membership, and outreach. As of the writing of this report, Doug has resigned from the Membership Committee for personal reasons; and Joan has been elected as Secretary of EGPS. As such, the EC is considering appointments to replace the co-chairs of the MC.

We wish to acknowledge the work of our Committee members: Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP; Ed Elder, MDiv; Lena Friedman, MPS, ATR-BC, LCAT; Amy Kossoy, BA; and Manny Shapiro, PhD, CGP. And of course we wish to thank Jan Vadell, organizational goddess, without whom we would accomplish nothing.

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

The Newsletter was published biannually the last year. It offered clinical and theoretical articles, highlights from the Board, and Committees/Task Force reports. The published articles were authored by EGPS members, and national and international experts in group therapy. The advertisement section was further expanded, increasing the organization's revenue. The Member News section has been quite popular, offering the membership a forum to communicate both professional and personal news.

John Carr, LCSW continued his membership on the Newsletter Committee, whereas Neil Freidman, MS Ed. Is a new member of the Committee.

## **PAST-PRESIDENTS**

**Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA and Bert Weinblatt, PhD, CGP, FAGPA**

The activities of the Past-Presidents Committee this year were limited for a variety of reasons; however, we focused on the Fund for Special Projects, enlisting the participation of all Past-Presidents who remain connected to EGPS. As this Committee looks to the future, we plan to explore additional ways that this dedicated group can support the efforts and mission of the organization.

## **PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION GROUP**

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

The Professional Discussion Group has offered diverse and interesting workshops for EGPS and the mental health community this academic year. In December, Dr. Dominick Grundy gave an interactive, experiential and didactic workshop entitled, "Delay Eats the Soul: On Professional Writing, Transference and Procrastination".

In January, Dr. Ken Corbett, provided a workshop entitled, "Masculinity 101" discussing a more expansive view on masculine identity. In February, Dr. Warren Spielberg discussed the groups he conducted in Israel composed of Palestinians and Israelis. It was a very thoughtful view of the process and the issues that are involved. A fourth presentation with Dr. Robert Marshall, entitled, "Mirroring, Bridging, and Survival" will be presented on May 1. This presentation will examine and integrate current developments in social, cognitive and neuroscience, and how they are both reflective and can be vitally drawn on in the psychotherapeutic process. We are delighted that The Center for Group Studies will be attending this interesting workshop as part of their weekend experience and welcome other professional groups to join in all of our events. We are grateful to our wonderful committee member, Joan Wittig, MS, ADTR, LCAT.

## **REFERRAL SERVICE**

**Kathie Ault, NP, CGP, Stephanie Kravec, LCSW, SAP, CSAT-s and Mary Sussillo, LCSW, BCD**

Last year The Referral Service was expanded into a Committee of three Co-Chairs designed to accommodate the ever-increasing goals of the service. Kathie Ault, NP, CGP assumed the responsibility for the group and specialty lists. Mary Sussillo, LCSW, BCD is our community outreach liaison working on developing and expanding the Referral Service with the goal of generating more group referrals. Stephanie Kravec, LCSW, CSAT-s continues to be responsible for matching referrals with members.

Only active members who submit copies of both their license and malpractice insurance are eligible to be included on the lists. The group list has more than 150 groups in New York, New Jersey, Westchester, and Long Island. To date we have 32 categories of specialty listings. On the Insurance provider list, we have members participating in 14 Insurance programs. There are 122 members listed. We encourage anyone interested to submit your documents so that you are eligible to be listed and to receive referrals.

Our goal this year is to market EGPS by informing referral sources in the community of the many rich resources that are available, and to send out the group and specialties list to anyone who is interested in receiving these cost-effective and diverse resources. In these tough times, an expanded Referral Service (as one of the many benefits of EGPS) will become increasingly instrumental in maintaining existing membership and motivating and recruiting new members. The Referral Service will continue to make every effort to make the best possible match between group therapist and patient.

We are encouraging all EGPS members to actively participate in the benefits of the Referral Service. Your participation strengthens the organization, and informs your EGPS colleagues of your special interests and your existing groups, as well as marketing your groups to organizations, institutions, agencies, and professionals in the tri-state area. Please contact Kathie Ault, NP, CGP who has assumed the responsibility for maintaining the e-mail lists. Submissions are accepted only by email. Please send to [Katault@aol.com](mailto:Katault@aol.com).

## **SPRING EVENT**

**Sherry Breslau, Ph.D., CGP and Lynn Pearl, Ph.D., 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 second year. Joan Wittig, MS, ADTR, LCAT, Chair of the Creative Arts Department at Pratt Institute and Co-Chair of the EGPS Membership Committee has again been instrumental in facilitating the co-sponsoring of the Spring Event with Pratt.

This year, in response to numerous requests, we have altered the Event format to allow for a buffet supper to be served earlier in the evening. Dr. Joseph Shay will present "*The Group as Movie Screen: Projective Identification in Film and Television*". 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, Leon Schein, Amy Kossoy and Lee Kassan. Last year's event, (co-chaired by Jim Ellis and Lynn Pearl), was successful and well-attended and we look forward to another good year.

### **TRAINING PROGRAM**

#### **Leon Schein, EdD, LCSW, CGP, Director**

The Training Program is completing its twentieth successful year since its inception in 1989. The success of the Program is in no small part due to the efforts and diligence of our Deans: Alan Shanel, LCSW, CGP, Dean of Faculty; Phyllis Wright, LCSW, CGP, Dean of Professional Development; Ellen Rubin, PsyD, Co-Dean of Admissions; and Anne McEaney, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Co-Dean of Admissions. The generosity of time and effort, creativity, and expansive perspectives of our Faculty, Consultants and Experiential Leaders has contributed immensely to the ongoing development of the program and ensured its success: Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA; 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 2009 graduation will be conducted on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at St Vincent's Hospital. The graduates will include: Kevin Braga, LMSW, Shawneladee Cole, LCSW-R, ABD, Ruth Geller, MD, MEd, George Jagatic, MS, DTR, LCAT, Yoon Im Kane, LCSW, Jani Klebanow, PhD, Frank Lawatsch, MSW, Kristine Miranda, LMSW, Shawna Newman, MD, Dylan Payne, DO, Maria Romani de Goes, LCAT, Sara Rothstein, MPS, LCAT. Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, will be the graduation speaker.

The participants of our second year consultation group, Gloria Gaev, LMSW, Catherine Marsh, MA, Virginia Seewaldt, PhD, Donna Siegel, LMSW, and Sarah Wilkinson, LCSW, will also be acknowledged at the graduation ceremony.

The annual solicitation for the J. Dustin Nichols Scholarship Fund has allowed the Training Program to fund three partial scholarships during 2008-2009. The Program is most appreciative to family, friends and colleagues for their generosity.

A Search Committee was appointed by EGPS President, Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, FAGPA (Alan Shanel, LCSW, CGP, Phyllis Wright, LCSW, CGP, Anne McEaney, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Ellen Rubin, PhD, and Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, and myself as the non-voting Chair) to nominate candidates for the position of Director. Peter appointed Marie Rothschild, LCSW, BCD, CGP and Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP, as Co-Directors Designate upon the recommendation of the Committee. They will assume the position as Co-Directors on July 1, 2009. In a separate selection, Phyllis Wright, LCSW, CGP was chosen by the Deans of the Training Program to become Dean of Curriculum on July 1, 2009.

The Co-Deans of Admissions, Ellen Rubin, PsyD, and Anne McEaney, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, have begun interviewing prospective students for 2009-2010. We are most pleased and honored that the success of the Training Program will be acknowledged at the bi-annual EGPS fundraiser on June 7th, 2009. We look forward to graduates, administrators, faculty, consultants, mentors and experiential leaders, who participated throughout the years, to join us at this celebratory event.

On a personal note, after sixteen years in various capacities with the Training Program, I have decided to resign my positions as Dean of Curriculum and Director. It has been a privilege and heartwarming to serve with such a dedicated and generous group of deans, faculty, consultants, and experiential leaders whose immense contribution has ensured the success of the Program.

### **WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

#### **Jonah Schwartz, LCSW**

The Website Task Force has the mission of reorganizing and redesigning the EGPS website ([www.egps.org](http://www.egps.org)) to make it more user-friendly. The organization views the website as an important tool to promote the use of group psychotherapy through education, training and provision of direct service (e.g., through the Referral Service.) After gathering information from the various Board members and Committees, the Task Force is now in the process of securing a website designer and researching the costs and the technical requirements of an improved site. The Chair of the Task Force is Jonah Schwartz, LCSW, who would like to thank his former Co-Chair, Shuki Cohen, PhD, for all of his hard work on this project.