

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, CGP**

The Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society (EGPS) has been very productive this past year with all of its many regular ongoing activities, plus hosting the Annual Meeting of our parent organization, AGPA. Although our overall structure has remained constant, there has been much evolution and change within Committees and Task Forces, and progress towards collaborative group processing. This report brings together the results of the talent, hard work, and collegiality of the many who participate in EGPS governance, working to promote its mission of excellence in group therapy.

The structure of the organization is as follows: Officers and Members-at-Large comprise the elected Board of Directors and 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, Strategic Plan (2010), and organizational functioning.

The Strategic Plan's preamble and four goals are: "EGPS' 2010 Strategic Plan is designed to support EGPS's mission to be a group psychotherapy organization that provides a professional home for its members. The Strategic Plan seeks to sustain and expand the EGPS role in helping its members develop as group therapists within their field and practice. Furthermore, the Plan is designed to enable EGPS to promote its members' growth by expanding the organization's network of professional interaction and by maintaining its rich learning environment, which emphasizes experiential learning, sharing of experience and the development and teaching of theory. Goal: Develop existing and additional funding sources to increase EGPS income. Goal: Constantly review and promote better internal functioning of governance and administration. Goal: EGPS will bring Group Psychotherapy to the Public. Goal: Increase and Maintain Membership."

Committees and Task Forces are co-chaired, so that responsibilities are collaboratively shared, and also depend on members who do a lot of the work and participate in decision-making and vision-setting. Almost all of our Members-at-Large co-chair Committees or Task Forces, or contribute substantially to committee work. We have asked that the Committee and Task Force Chairs include in the reports that follow the names of their 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 (EC), consisting of Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP, President-Elect; Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT Secretary; Patti Cox, PhD, CGP, Treasurer; Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, CGP, President meets weekly by conference call that includes Jan Vadell, the EGPS Administrator. With each Committee and Task Force assigned one of the Officers of the Executive Committee as a liaison we collaboratively consult on the challenges, solutions, and achievements that arise in the scheduling and coordinating of the multiple ongoing projects and activities. As part of the EC our Administrator consults on all levels of governance, plus ensures the smooth carrying out of the Society's activities, events, and financial obligations.

The President's role is not only to represent the Society at our meetings and AGPA and preside over Board meetings, but to set and prioritize the agenda for the EC as well. She keeps track of the many threads of activities going on in the organization and holds them in context of the vision and current Strategic Plan of EGPS while overseeing the direction of the organization.

Our Administrator assists the President in her role, and consults and provides information on organizational operations and protocol to the EC, Board of Directors, Committees and Task Forces. When applicable, she actively works on Committees and Task Forces. This year she worked closely with the Website Task Force, the "Why Group Therapy?" Task Force and Fundraiser Task Force; has taken charge of our audiovisual and technical equipment and operations which we use at many of our events; Co-Chaired the AGPA Hosting Task Force, and monitors the technical aspects of our listserv. These are just a few examples of what she does as EGPS central source of operations and information. I think it's important for EGPS members to know that EGPS is able to accomplish so many activities, maintain its membership, and function in an organizationally sophisticated manner because we have an active and expert administrator.

Our Society continues to enjoy a large, diverse membership. In the following reports you will hear the active and expert participation of those who have donated their time and talent to governance of EGPS. I have enjoyed being President of EGPS because it is a truly collaborative, consciously evolving organization of diversely talented group therapy professionals.

In our governance we also encourage Board Members to take on different roles when desired to provide new and varied creative experiences. This year Patti Cox, PhD, CGP transitioned to Treasurer from Annual Conference Co-Chair, Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP, CASAC shifted from Manhattan Professional Discussion Group to Annual Conference Co-Chair, Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP moved from Treasurer to President-Elect and Co-Chair of the Fundraiser. Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP and Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP moved from Spring Event Co-Chairs to AGPA Hospitality Sub-Committee Co-Chairs.

A bittersweet, yet successful aspect of EGPS is that we have successfully been able to rejuvenate and replenish our governance with new Board members while long-term, dedicated Board members have retired or are pursuing other professional aspirations. This year we have several new joint Board members, Libby O'Conner, LCSW, joined as Referral Service Co-Chair, Herb Rabin, PhD, LFAGPA, as Past-President's Committee Co-Chair, Wayne Ayers, PhD, as Manhattan Professional Discussion Group Co-Chair, Cheryl Gerson, LCSW, BCD, as Managing Editor of *GROUP*. Leaving the Board are three members who have contributed significantly to EGPS over the years and will be truly missed: Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP and Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT.

Last year, EGPS had 11 standing Committees and three Task Forces. Each has a report in the following pages. Here I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Members-at-Large, Chairs and Co-Chairs of each Committee and Task Force. With AGPA in town, many have enthusiastically taken on extra roles and committee work. The Annual Conference, our major event and largest Committee was organized last year by Patti Cox, PhD, CGP and Ed Elder, MDiv, LMHC, Co-Chairs, and Co-Chair Designate, Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP, CASAC. They produced another well-attended, stimulating Conference last November. Work on our next Annual Conference is already well underway. Ronnie Levine, PhD, CGP, FAGPA and Wayne Ayers, PhD provided high quality presenters for another year of exciting and well-attended Manhattan Professional Discussion Group events. Our *GROUP* Journal, edited by Dominick Grundy, PhD, CGP with Assistant Editor, Lee Kassan, MA, CGP and Managing Editor, Cheryl Gerson, PhD, CGP continues to produce our scholarly and prestigious journal *GROUP*, giving members the opportunity to publish their work. Greg MacColl, MSW, CGP, FAGPA rounded up another year of monthly discussion groups in Brooklyn and Long Island, giving members a local group community to present and discuss their work. Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA spent many hours in editorship of our bi-annual Newsletter which brings members news and photos of Society events, interesting feature articles, and offers space for members to advertise. Shoshana additionally took on the role of Co-Chairing the AGPA Hosting Society Marketing Sub-Committee. Mary Sussillo, LCSW, CGP and Libby O'Conner, LCSW of the Referral Service matched referrals with member-run groups. This year they went a step further and have provided us a listing of types of referrals requested to indicate supply and demand. Lee Kassan, MA, CGP Chaired the Spring Event, with significant collaboration from Mildred Forrell, MA, LCSW, CGP, Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT, Phil Luloff, MD, CGP, FAGPA and Lee's wife Lily Mercer, bringing us pre-eminent author and expert on group therapy, J. Scott Rutan, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA. Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP and Marie Rothschild, LCSW, CGP successfully Co-Directed the Training Program through a year of challenges in recruitment and new location. Not only do they put in many hours with the Training Program, but Jim and Marie have taken on the challenge of also Chairing this year's Fundraiser with Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP. Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP gave another year of her marketing expertise to EGPS as Chair of the Membership Committee and AGPA Hosting Society Marketing Sub-Committee Co-Chair. With her initiatives she has helped maintain our membership levels while other organizations are waning. Our Past-Presidents Committee Co-Chaired by Herb Rabin, PhD, CGP, LFAGPA and Richard Beck, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, who have begun communicating with all our past-presidents through the use of the listserv just for this group, are making progress in reconnecting our Past-Presidents, utilizing their wisdom and expertise, with EGPS. The "Why Group Therapy?" Task Force lead by Mary Sussillo, LCSW, CGP, Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA and Susan Frankel, MSW, CGP was a huge success because of the quality and energy of their presentations. The Hosting Society Task Force was Co-Chaired by Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, CGP and Jan Vadell. Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP and Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP are our inspiring Hospitality Subcommittee Co-Chairs, and, as mentioned previously, Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA and Carol Dallinga, LCSW are the Marketing Sub-Committee Co-Chairs, and Chera Finnis, PsyD, CGP FAGPA and Dan Raviv, PhD, CGP, FAGPA did well promoting EGPS member presentations at AGPA as the Program Sub-Committee Co-Chairs.

In all, I am proud to report that EGPS' collective governance has made strides over the past two years of my presidency consistent with the Strategic Plan they formulated at its initiation. I am confident that we are in a good position to carry on our work in the future individually and collectively as group therapists.

#### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

**Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT, LCAT**

The Secretary of EGPS plays the role of witness and historian for the organization, as member of the Executive Committee (EC) and the Board of Directors (BOD). The Secretary takes minutes at the BOD meetings, which are sent to the EC for review before final distribution to the BOD for review and approval. These minutes become a permanent record of the work done at BOD meetings. The minutes provide a record of the work of the BOD, and the direction of EGPS as an organization. The Secretary also takes notes for the weekly EC conference calls which serve as a reminder of the work of the EC from week to week.

As a member of the EC, the Secretary serves as liaison to several Committees, providing a direct line between the Committees and the EC. This assists the EC in supporting the Committees and Task Forces with their work. This past year the Secretary served as liaison to the Professional Discussion Groups (Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Long Island), Spring Event Committee, Conference Committee, and Newsletter Committee.

The Secretary also provides reports for each Newsletter, updating the EGPS community on what has been happening in BOD meetings; and represents the BOD by sending cards or notes to Board members and their families at times of transition.

Finally, as a member of the Executive Committee, the Secretary participates in weekly conference calls, where the EC tracks the direction and ongoing work of the BOD as it represents the overall organization.

#### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

**Patti L. Cox, PhD, CGP**

Patti L. Cox, Ph.D., CGP was appointed to a one-year term as EGPS Treasurer to complete Neal Spivack's term as he moved into the role of EGPS President-Elect.

The Budget and Finance Committee, Chaired by the Treasurer, was reorganized with members Leon Schein, EdD, LCSW, CGP, and Jonah Schwartz, LCSW. The charge of the Budget and Finance Committee is to study the organization's increasing deficit to determine its underlying causes, work with each Committee/Task Force to develop their annual budgets, explore alternative funding sources for the organization, along with potential sponsorship of certain programs to reduce financial strain, and ultimately balance the budget.

At this writing, each program's Co-Chairs are meeting with Budget and Finance Committee members to analyze their individual income and expense patterns over the last four years including budget short falls, and explore ideas for innovative, profitable, and sustainable programming. These meetings are in preparation for ongoing Board discussions regarding the future financial health of the organization.

#### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**2010 Co-chairs: Patti L. Cox, Ph.D., CGP and Ed Elder, L MHC, M.Div.**

**2011 Co-chairs: Ed Elder, L MHC, M.Div. and Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP**

The theme of the 2010 Annual Conference, Co-Chaired by Patti L. Cox, Ph.D., CGP, and Ed Elder M.Div., LMHC was "Desire, Conflict and Aggression: The Lifeblood of Groups." It was held again at Riverside Church on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. We were very pleased to be able to add Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP as our Co-Chair Designate for this year. Barbara Feld, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA and Peter Taylor, PhD, CGP, SEP, FAGPA were the Plenary Co-Chairs. John Schlapobersky, BA, MSc and the organization Seeds of Peace were the plenary presenters. John Schlapobersky presented a fascinating

overview of the concept “The Enemy within and The Enemy Among” followed by a semi-structured group (the volunteers were given general roles to inhabit). Richard Billow was the discussant. We all wished we could have had more time to explore their different perspectives. For the second Plenary, we learned of the work of Seeds of Peace to bring together children from different ethnic groups in conflict ridden situations for a summer camp opportunity. Barbara Gottschalk, MSW, PhD and recent “campers” from their work with Afghans explained how the program works and their use of groups to overcome stereotyped thinking about “the other” in these conflicts. Many people found the program extremely moving. Elliot Zeisel, PhD, LCSW, CGP. FAGPA was the discussant for this Plenary and lead us in a lively discussion of their program and how we might bring their work to a larger New York audience. Our wonderful Conference program of workshops and institutes was ably put together by the Program Sub-Committee led by Chera Finnis, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA and Dan Raviv, PhD, CGP, FAGPA along with Sub-Committee members, Rhona Engels, LCSW, Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Joseph Lynch, PhD, and David Younger, PhD, CGP. We were extremely fortunate to have John Schlapobersky BA, MSc also co-lead the Large Group experience with Phyllis Cohen, PhD, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA. John also led a workshop on Sunday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> on object relations and couples therapy. John Carr, LCSW, coordinated this event. We also managed to have an organized scholarship program headed by Jonah Schwartz, LCSW which gathered enough money to have some left over as seed scholarships for this coming year. We continued our practice of holding a luncheon gathering for all the first-time attendees, which went over very well again. Sherry Breslau PhD, CGP was the Chair of this gathering. Our Hospitality Sub-Committee was Co-Chaired by Pat Doyle, PhD, CGP and Fran Weiss, DCSW, BCD, CGP who did a great job in overseeing our coffee services and the faculty dinner. Our Site Committee which is composed of the student “volunteers” who helped us find our way around was Chaired by Doug Ruest, LCSW. We would like to thank all our Sub-Committee Chairs and Committee members, the faculty and everyone who attended.

The theme of our 2011 Conference, Co-Chaired by Ed Elder, LMHC, MDiv, and Claudia Arlo, LCSW, CGP is "The Art and Science of Leading Groups: The Interplay of Theory and Practice." We will be returning to Riverside Church on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Peter Taylor PhD, CGP, SEP, FAGPA and Sherry Breslau PhD, CGP are Chairing the Plenary Sub-Committee. We are trying something a bit different this year. We will have a slightly longer plenary at the beginning of the Conference and hope to bring clinicians with a variety of backgrounds together to play with the idea of how theory and practice intertwine. We will then end the Conference with a more festive event which will include food and drink and activities to be determined. Chera Finnis, PsyD, CGP, and Robin Good PhD, CGP are heading up the 2011 Program Sub-Committee. Already their Sub-committee has reviewed the program proposals that were submitted and report being very pleased with both the content and diversity of submissions. Doug Ruest, LCSW and Benjamin Yost, LMSW, are Co-Chairing the Site Sub-Committee. Amy Kossoy, BS and Lee Kassan MA, CGP, will again Co-Chair the Marketing Sub-Committee. Jonah Schwartz, LCSW, is again in the role of Continuing Education Coordinator. He has managed to get the entire Conference accepted for CASAC credits. Jonah Schwartz along with Co-Chair Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA will head-up the Scholarship and Ambassador Program Sub-Committee. We are pleased to have both John Schlapobersky, BA, MSc and Phyllis Cohen, PhD, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA, 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.

This year’s Conference promises to offer therapists an opportunity to explore the diverse world of group work and to embark on a journey of self exploration: at each moment of our practice, what do we do and why do we do it. We look forward to your answers!

#### **JOURNAL GROUP**

**Dominick Grundy, PhD, CGP, Editor**

**Lee Kassan, MA, CGP, Associate Editor**

**Cheryl Gerson, LCSW, Incoming Managing Editor**

The Journal has continued to appear on a regular basis since the report last year. Our March issue was delayed, unfortunately, by a mailing problem, and, starting with the September one, the issues will follow other journals by adopting a seasonal approach—Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. Although this may not speed anything up, it may mitigate editorial narcissistic injury due to unforeseen delay.

The Journal has recently published an issue—long in the works—on the aging group therapist, guest-edited by J. Scott Rutan, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA, one which just happens to include two obituaries. The editor has received comments

indicating that this topic is important for many EGPS therapists who are considering if, how, or when to retire. Future issues are being planned on gender, the philosophical underpinnings of psychotherapy, siblings and group therapy, and the effect of new media such as Facebook on groups. However, not all issues are thematic, and as editor I welcome submissions—and ideas for submissions—on *any* topic. Please feel free to contact me at Grundyd4@earthlink.net.

The EGPS website has been improved. The Journal Committee (the Editor, Lee Kassan and Cheryl Gerson), assisted by Jonah Schwartz, listed article titles by issue from March 2009 up till the present, as well as article abstracts since March 2010. This was quite an undertaking for all of us, but hopefully it will provide EGPS members and researchers with a modest database. To locate it, go to [www.egps.org](http://www.egps.org) and point the mouse to EGPS Publications on the left side without clicking. Point to the Journal then click. Back issues can be ordered from the publisher, Mental Health Resources, telephone 877-6470202 or email Dennis Bessey, [dennis.mhr@verizon.net](mailto:dennis.mhr@verizon.net). Some issues are now available at the Amazon.com website: 34.2, an issue on Jacques Lacan and 34.4, an issue on group training in the USA and UK, which includes the EGPS Training Program. To find them, go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and then type in *GROUP Jacques Lacan* or *GROUP training in group psychotherapy*. They should appear in a list with other titles. (Even if you do not buy, a “hit” is helpful).

Lee Kassan, MA, CGP, Associate Editor, continues his hard work as regular copy editor and as Editorial Board member. Cheryl Gerson, LCSW, BCD, Managing Editor, shoulders responsibility for subscriptions, advertizing and interacting with the publisher. Barbara Cohn, PhD, ABPP, LFAGPA continues to provide reviews and reviewers of sterling quality for relevant books, while Bernard Frankel, PhD, LFAGPA has provided theater and film reviews on topics relevant to psychotherapy. Thanks to all.

### **LONG ISLAND AND BROOKLYN PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Greg MacColl, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA**

These community-based discussion groups are a way to extend the EGPS activities outside of Manhattan to the boroughs and Long Island. Although we welcome all our members to take part in the many conference and other programs that EGPS has to offer, we are aware that having activities in areas outside of the City is very convenient for those members and provides a valuable means to connect with fellow colleagues. My hope is that these can be extended both to Staten Island and the Bronx, as well as upper Manhattan, letting these members know they are a part of us and help them build a local professional identity.

This report will cover the period from January to June, 2011:

Although many of us thought that January's Long Island Discussion Group meeting may have a low turnout, due to the prolong cold winter, 18 Long Island and Queens professionals (there are 36 EGPS members on Long Island) turned out to hear a lively presentation by Rachel Barak-Stein, Israeli Psychologist, who also hosted in her new home.

At the Brooklyn Meeting, Ally Neuman, LCSW presented for 15 of us, three of whom are new members of the Discussion Group! We are especially excited that EGPS now has 31 members from Brooklyn. Only 2 years ago, when we first began our meetings, EGPS had around 5 Brooklyn members.

Our February/March meetings were also a big hit, with Hillary Glick, PhD. presenting in Brooklyn and Debra Ross, LCSW (first-time presenter) and Sheila Rindler, LCSW presenting for Long Island.

In April and May, for Brooklyn, Teresa Solomita, LCSW, (first time presenter) and Ethel Barber, LCSW presented while on Long Island, Judith Schaer, LCSW, FAGPA, and Rob Pepper, LCSW, PhD did terrific presentations!

We are looking forward to our year end retreat at Miriam Mendez, LCSW, home on Long Beach where will focus on caring for the care-giver (that's us!) with meditation and Yoga on the beach and by her pool!

Special thanks for Arlene Grossman, LCSW for consistently offering her home on Long Island and for Ethel Barber, LCSW who has extended her home in Brooklyn to us for the past two years! Special thanks also goes to Julie Sullivan-Redmond, LCSW, for taking on the role of taking attendance and being a big help to me in many ways for the Brooklyn Discussion

Group. On Long Island, Rob Pepper, LCSW, PhD agreed to take on the program director role starting in September, with Debra Ross, LCSW and Allan Pine, LCSW helping out with other responsibilities. Judith Schaer, LCSW will help out in contacting new members and connecting with the Nassau Society of Clinical Social Workers. Without these gracious hostesses and the many others who have opened their homes and the skillful presenters and those who put aside their valuable Sunday's for these exciting events, we wouldn't have such a vibrant professional community without you! It has been a pleasure to be a part of this professional family!

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP**

Membership in EGPS continues to be strong and vibrant. Over the past year many new members have joined EGPS and participated in varied professional activities presented by the organization.

The Membership Committee Chair, Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP, began a program of welcoming all new members to EGPS by personal phone calls to each member. The phone calls were meant to open up conversations to new members that may have some general questions about the organization. The discussions centered on the benefits new members derive from joining our Society. As you know, members enjoy lively participation at our many events which include: our Annual Conference; our Spring Event; our Fundraiser and the Professional Discussion Groups in Manhattan, Long Island and Brooklyn. Our members continue to receive our exceptional journal, GROUP, and our Newsletter with current Society events and news. Members have expressed positive comments about the availability and usage of the EGPS listserv as a "bonus" benefit.

The Membership Chair also provided EGPS with numerous lists of mental health professionals' names and contact information within high schools, colleges, private practice and employee assistance programs in the tri-state area. This will help to enlarge our outreach to potential new members by marketing all future EGPS professional activities.

A Special thank you to Elizabeth (Libby) O'Connor, LCSW, for her help in calling new EGPS members and personally inviting them to the upcoming Spring Event. The Membership Committee is indebted to the support given by Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, Executive Committee Liaison, via phone and email over the course of this year.

### **NEWSLETTER**

**Shoshana Ben-Noam, Psy.D, CGP, FAGPA – Editor**

The EGPS Newsletter was published twice in the last year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring. It offered articles addressing theory and technique of group therapy, authored by EGPS members and national/international experts in group therapy. It also reported members' news; highlights from the Board of Directors meetings, Committees and Task Forces; and, information regarding the organization's various events.

The paid advertisements section further contributed to the Newsletter's increased revenue.

The Committee members are: Amy Kossoy, BS, Suzy Pasette, MPS, LCAT and Neil Friedman, MEd.

### **PAST-PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE**

**Richard Beck, LCSW, BCD, CGP, FAGPA**

**Herb Rabin, PhD, CGP, LFAGPA**

The EGPS Past-Presidents Committee consists of: Janet Bauman, Harold Bernard, Bruce Bernstein, Felicia Einhorn, Bernie Frankel, Jeff Kleinberg, Shirley Schechter Levene, Margaret Postlewaite, Peter Taylor, Bert Weinblatt and Phyllis Wright.

It functions as an advisory and consultation committee to the EGPS President, Executive Committee and Committee Chairs, whenever requested.

The Committee is in the process of thinking about different ways of mentoring new EGPS members and offering its expertise to all our members.

We want to encourage the continuing connection and participation of all EGPS Past-Presidents with the organization itself.

### **MANHATTAN PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSION**

**Wayne Ayers, PhD**

**Ronnie Levine, PhD, CGP, FAGPA**

This year's Manhattan Professional Discussion Group had an interesting and diverse program. Wayne Ayers, PhD joined the Committee as Co-Chair and added to the cheery flow of the evenings.

In December, Emily Nash LCAT and Stephanie Wise, MA, ATR-BC, LCAT presented a workshop entitled "Containing Trauma: Metaphor as Heroic Mediator within the Group Experience." They discussed the role of metaphor as a "heroic" tool to mediate between the intimately personal and the public/group arena. They led us through a series of very powerful exercises which helped group members (some senior clinicians) tap into deep emotional experience, very quickly.

In January, Mark Finn, PhD, discussed the role of "Group Relations in Buddhist Psychology." An under examined-topic, Dr. Finn discussed how group relations are imbedded in Buddhist thought through the idea of the Sangha (the community). Focusing on the Heart Sutra, he pointed out how early teachings were conducted in group and employed the group as a didactic tool to present ideas.

In February, in a very well attended lecture, Richard Billow, PhD, CGP, ABPP, presented on "Loving, Hating and Knowing: Working Relationally in Group." Dr. Billow's talk presented some of his work at the cutting edge of group theorizing, updating and expanding Bion's ideas of relating in group. He lead a process group in his inimitable style and you can be certain that no one's thoughts were outside the room.

In March, EGPS Past-President Peter Taylor, PhD, SEP, CGP, FAGPA and Roger Saint-Laurent, PsyD, SEP, CGP led a valuable workshop on BODY/MIND/ACTIVATION/REGULATION: AN ORIENTATION TO SOMATIC EXPERIENCING® Based on the work of Peter Levine, their fascinating lecture combined high-tech presentation, video and experiential exercises to help the audience understand how trauma and psychological injury become encoded in the body.

In May, author and psychotherapist Nancy Napier, MA, LMFT, presented on GETTING THINGS MOVING: A BODY-BASED APPROACH TO UNBLOCKING TRAUMATIC ASSOCIATIONS/DISSOCIATION. This was a follow-up to the previous workshop on Somatic Experiencing. Ms. Napier discussed how traumatic experience trapped in the body can be released in a safe and effective way.

This was an exciting 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. Finally, we'd like to offer a special thanks to Claudia Arlo for her support and contributions to the Manhattan PDG.

### **REFERRAL SERVICE**

**Elizabeth (Libby) O'Connor, LCSW**

**Mary V. Sussillo, LCSW, BCD, CGP**

#### **New Co-Chair**

This year the Referral Service enthusiastically welcomed Co-Chair, Libby O'Connor, LCSW. Libby's function is to handle the technology aspects of the service. Further, she will also be sharing the responsibility of making referrals to active members and be involved in outreach efforts to promote the service to organizations like the following: hospitals, agencies, mental health training programs/institutes, Employee Assistance Programs, Student Assistance Programs, substance abuse and other addictions programs, and to non-traditional settings.

### **Current Focus of the Referral Service**

Currently, the Referral Service is adapting some of its functions to the new EGPS listserv. Since active members can make referrals directly to each other, the Referral Service is focusing on responding to phone and email inquiries from visitors to our website (seeking groups for themselves, friends and family members) or have been referred to us from our parent organization AGPA for those needing assistance in the local area, and to requests from professionals (primarily non-EGPS professionals) who are seeking group recommendations for their clients.

### **Referral Statistics**

From May 18, 2010 to May 5, 2011, the Referral Service received 45 referral requests. (This number is separate from referrals that are requested through the EGPS active member listserv.)

Specialized groups account for 44.4% of all group referrals; the rest were for general groups. The specific requests were for groups such as adolescents; anxiety/social anxiety/panic disorder; anger management; assertiveness training; children—social skills; divorce; dual diagnosis; mixed gay/heterosexual group; medical issues; trauma; women; young adult—post first psychiatric hospitalization; young adult—general. The Referral Service educated callers to consider general groups when there was not a specific group available.

Managed care referrals accounted for 28.8% of the referrals, while 53.3% were private pay. Of the latter, many requests were for low-fee private pay. (17.7% of all referrals were unknown regarding payment preference.)

The lay public accounted for 33.3% of the referrals; professionals (mental health and others) initiated 64.4% of referrals primarily for their patients. (2.2% of the referrals were unknown regarding lay versus professional initiation of the referral.)

**Note:** Most referral requests are very specific to location, kind of group, and cost. The Referral Service makes every attempt to refer broadly to its active members who have appropriate groups.

It is important to note that only EGPS members who have a copy of their current license and malpractice insurance on file in the EGPS office can receive referrals or be listed in the on-line EGPS directory. (When the dues renewals go out in June all members will again have the opportunity to again submit their paperwork.)

### **Other Activities**

On October 15, 2010, the Referral Service participated with other EGPS Committees to conjointly offer a workshop entitled “Why Group Therapy?” to help demystify group therapy for mental health students and professionals. See separate (and more definitive) program description of the “Why Group Therapy?” Task Force in this EGPS Annual Report.

### **SPRING EVENT COMMITTEE**

**Lee Kassan, MA, CGP**

After a long and thorough look at other venues, this year’s EGPS Spring Event is again being held at and co-sponsored with the Creative Arts Department at the Pratt Institute on 14th Street in Manhattan for a fourth year. Joan Wittig, Chair of the Creative Arts Department at Pratt Institute and retiring EGPS Secretary, has again been instrumental in arranging and coordinating the Spring Event with Pratt, and in dealing with the new facility director.

This year our presenter will be J. Scott Rutan, PhD, CGP, DFAGPA whose topic will be "What Just Happened? Dealing with the Unexpected in Group Therapy." Other people who have helped make this year's event happen include Jan Vadell, EGPS Administrator, Mildred Forrell, LCSW, Amy Kossoy, BS, Philip Luloff, MD, CGP and Libby O'Connor, LCSW.

The caterer we had been using for the past few years has gone out of business, probably because of the demise of St. Vincent's Hospital. This year we will be using a new caterer.

We also have completed the purchase of sound equipment and this should eliminate the problems we have had in the past with sound. It's so important that everyone in the audience be able to hear clearly and easily the voices of the volunteers in the demonstration group as well as the presenter. We're sure that the new equipment and the technician we will have on-site will make sure everyone can hear well.

Last year's event, which was Co-Chaired by Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP and Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP, was informative, enjoyable, and well-attended, and we expect that this year's event will be equally successful.

#### **TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP**

**Marie Rothschild, LCSW, CGP**

The Training Program is completing its 22nd 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 of the Deans, our faculty, supervisor and experiential leader, contributes to the ongoing success of the Training Program: Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA, Barbara Cohn, PhD, FAGPA, Ed Elder, MDiv, Chera Finnis, PsyD., CGP, FAGPA, Mildred Forrell, LCSW, Lena Furgeri, EdD, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA, Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Robert Grossmark, PhD, Ronnie Levine, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, Shelly Menolascino, MD, and Paul Schienberg, PhD.

The class of 2010-2011 is small but dynamic. The make-up of the class is very diverse but they have worked well together. The Program met in its now home this year at Blanton-Peale. We enjoyed their space and hospitality.

The annual solicitation of the J. Dustin Nichols Scholarship Fund has helped to fund our scholarship students.

We are concluding our second year as Co-Directors. We have enjoyed our work with our esteemed Deans and faculty.

#### **FUNDRAISER TASK FORCE**

**Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP**

**Marie Rothschild, LCSW, CGP**

**Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP**

The EGPS biannual Fundraiser will take place on June 5, 2011 at Sagaponack Restaurant and will honor Ronnie Levine, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, and Hillel Swiller, MD, LFAGPA. There will be a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception with speeches on behalf of the honorees. Income will be generated through ticket sales, a Chinese Auction, a commemorative journal, and donations. Items for the auction are being donated by members, friends, and family. Co-chairs are Jim Ellis, PhD, CGP, Marie Rothschild, LCSW, CGP and Neal Spivack, PhD, CGP. Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP and Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP are coordinating of the journal. John Carr, LCSW is assisting with the auction. Joan Wittig, MS, BC-DMT and Phil Luloff, MD are assisting the honorees. Jan Vadell has provided invaluable assistance with the entire project.

#### **HOSTING TASK FORCE FOR AGPA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD**

EGPS hosted the AGPA Annual Meeting this year, February 27 to March 5 at the Sheraton Towers Hotel in Manhattan, for the first time since 2005. Michelle Collins-Greene, PhD, CGP, EGPS President, and Jan Vadell, Administrator, Co-Chaired the Hosting Society Task Force. Hosting AGPA is considerable work for EGPS, but AGPA and our Hosting Task Force are doing everything possible to make their presence in NY a reciprocally beneficial enterprise. We will host them again next year, same location, March 3-10, 2012. The Hospitality Sub-Committee, Co-Chaired by Sherry Breslau, PhD, CGP and Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP welcomed not only out-of-towners, but also our own EGPS members who thoroughly enjoyed spending time at our Hospitality Booth. The Hospitality Guide was prepared by Kathie Ault, NP, CGP, Marie

Rothschild, LCSW, CGP and Amy Kossoy, BS and the Booth was organized by John Carr, MSW and Mary Sussillo, LCSW, CGP. The Program Sub-committee, Co-Chaired by Chera Finnis, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA and Dan Raviv, PhD, CGP, FAGPA engineered with AGPA a continuous Institute and Workshop—starting with AGPA this year, reconvening at the EGPS Annual Conference in November of this year, then again next year with AGPA. They also recruited 16 NY student volunteers to assist in running the Open Sessions. Our Marketing Sub-Committee, Co-Chaired by Shoshana Ben-Noam, PsyD, CGP, FAGPA and Carol Dallinga, LCSW, CGP worked with AGPA in reaching out to media, agencies, universities, and the many group therapist professionals across the country. All in all it was a very successful event and much enjoyed and appreciated by many attendees and AGPA.

**WEBSITE TASK FORCE**  
**Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA**  
**Jonah Schwartz, LCSW**

The Website Task Force, Co-Chaired by Margaret Postlewaite, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, and Jonah Schwartz, LCSW, and comprised of Lynn Pearl, PhD, CGP and EGPS Administrator Jan Vadell, are proud to announce the launch of the complete redesign of the organization's website ([www.egps.org](http://www.egps.org)). The project, several years in the making, resulted in what the Task Force hopes will serve as a valuable gateway to all of the wonderful work done by EGPS. The website is updated continuously to reflect our ever-changing offerings. The Task Force in particular would like to thank our web designer, Alma Longworth, for all of her hard work, both in the design and in her fast and efficient updates. Having completed its work, the Task Force will disband at the end of President Michelle Collins-Greene's term, but Jonah Schwartz will continue to be the website liaison.

**“WHY GROUP THERAPY?” WORKSHOP TASK FORCE**  
**Susan Frankel, LCSW, CGP**  
**Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA**  
**Mary Sussillo, LCSW, BCD, CGP**

A low-cost three-hour evening workshop on the value of group therapy (both efficacious and cost-effective) and combined individual and group therapy, was 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 target audience was primarily students, new professionals, and established therapists who may not conduct groups yet and wanted to learn more about the potential benefits of group for their patients.

The workshop included an excellent didactic presentation by Robin Good, PhD, CGP, FAGPA, a cohesive and interactive demo group by Susan Frankel, LCSW, CGP and a discussion led by moderator, Mary Sussillo, LCSW, BCD, CGP. The last segment of the evening provided opportunities for networking with EGPS Board members, Committee Co-Chairs and others from EGPS. The workshop was well received.

The workshop venue was the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies, on 10 Street in Manhattan. We would like to thank Ron Leiber, Executive Director of CMPS, for the generous agreement to use the Center's Village townhouse at minimal cost for this program. The Center's students received complimentary admission.

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