groupassets

THE FACES OF OUR FOUNDATION

ing with any regularity over the past couple of decades, you have definitely seen Patricia (Pat) Barth, PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA, behind a podium. She was either presiding over a Group Foundation-sponsored event during the conference or giving a Treasurer's Report at the AGPA Board Meeting or the her you won't forget her. She stands tall and elegant in her leadership positions and her



Pat is a clinical psychologist practicing in Houston, Texas, and a Distinguished Fellow of AGPA. She has also served on the Faculty of Baylor College and has supervised the Group Psychotherapy Residency Program. You have seen her name on the Faculty of the AGPA Annual Meeting for many years, leading workshops and serving as an Institute group leader.

Pat also served in AGPA governance in the capacity of Treasurer, and it was my pleasure to serve with her on the Executive Committee. Her most significant contribution was her eight-year tenure as the Chair of the Group Foundation, providing leadership throughout our highly successful Capital Campaign. During her tenure as Chair, she was tireless in supporting the goals of the Foundation, growing it into the thriving and dynamic organization it is today. I asked Pat to

"I initially joined the Foundation when asked by Anne Alonso, learning more about the organization. Little did I know what the extent of my involvement would be! Chair for eight years!

It was gratifying to be involved in the Capital Campaign and finally being able to pay off the headquarters debt. It was also gratifying, after 9/11, to see our organization move more to community outreach—going from a rather insular organization to actually being in the community, and putting our group skills to work with first responders and victims of trauma all over the

everyone was extremely generous when I did so. AGPA has wonderful, dedicated members, which is why I've continued to be involved. The community outreach also made it easier to

Affairs Senior Director, have been wonderful mentors, guiding me along the way. To have professionals on our staff who have been with us for so long and who have such a grasp of things

The scholarship program has grown exponentially over the years. To be able to give scholarships to more than 200 students and new professionals each year is truly a wonderful experience. With young people not tending to join organizations in today's world, it is even more important to reach out to try to bring

So many charities are asking for our dollars today. We have to pick and choose. The Group Foundation is at the top of my list.'

AGPA and the Group Foundation, I think that we are the ones who are blessed. She has given her time, her leadership, and her heart to supporting the work of our organization. We owe both Pat and her husband, Dr. Merle Barth, a debt of gratitude for their generosity at many levels. I'm proud to call them my friends.

Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA

EDITOR'S NOTE



You may notice a change in the content in this issue of Group Assets. Rather than reporting the news of the Group Foundation solely through an Editor's article, we invited those who are actively involved to share their experiences of being part of a community that has committed to supporting the field of group psychotherapy.

This issue focuses on local events that have taken place. This is an effort to create a more inclusive and dynamic way to represent all of the important work that goes on within the Foundation.

My thanks to the contributors who helped launch this new direction.

Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA **Editor, Group Assets**

Rochester Presents Decoding the Tablecloth

On November 18, the community of Rochester, New York, was fortunate to host Gabriela Kohen, MFA, who performed her play Decoding the Tablecloth as a fundraiser benefitting three organizations: AGPA, JCC of Rochester, and The Jewish Federation of Rochester.

Kohen, who received her acting degree from the American Conservatory Theater, is a drama therapist at Sanctuary for Families and Restore, New York City, a faculty member of the Therapeutic Arts Alliance of Manhattan, and a graduate of the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies.

Gaby's performance was very powerful and moving as she related her personal story through the portrayal of more than 20 characters of her family growing up in Jewish and Latino communities in New York City and Argentina. Her performance illuminates the phenomenon of transgenerational trauma and how it was evidenced through five generations of her family. Her poignant shifts between the many members of her family made for a riveting experience, as



Group Foundation Board and Rochester community members (left to right) Aaron Black, PhD, Phyllis Rifkin-Russell, MS, LMHC, CGP, and Christine Fitzstevens, LCSW-R, CGP, organized a fundraiser to benefit the Foundation.

she transitioned back and forth between the present and the past. Her extraordinary facility to personify the characters is, no doubt, informed and enhanced by her training and practice as a modern psychoanalyst. This play relates to the group therapy process if we consider our family as an actual group, as well as the family group inside our mind. On behalf of the Group Foundation, we were thrilled to be able to bring this play to our community and provide an opportunity to view and discuss it.

Christine Fitzstevens, LCSW-R, CGP, Aaron Black, PhD, and Phyllis Rifkin-Russell, MS, LMHC, CGP, members of the Group Foundation Board of Directors, underwrote the expenses so that all proceeds directly support Foundation programs.

The event was held at the JCC of Rochester. We were so fortunate to have the Jewish Federation on board as promoters of our fundraiser and contributors. Specifically, we thank Bonnie Abrams for her contributions! Ralph Meranto, CenterStage Artistic Director, was invaluable as he worked very closely with Howard Markus and Chris Fitzstevens on all the crucial details that made our event flow seamlessly from a pre-production reception for the event's patrons to a small post-production gathering in honor of Gaby. Steve Russell and Bill Watson were huge additions in their support of Aaron Black as purveyors of the fine wines served at the reception that was lively, fun, and well attended. It was truly a group effort.

The projected income for the Group Foundation is approximately \$5,000, which will go directly to supporting scholarships at AGPA Connect (one lovely moment was when a former local scholarship recipient spoke about the benefits of receiving the Foundation's support). It's exciting to have an event provide a service and connection to our local community, while simultaneously helping others in our larger group therapy community get training and support.

We thank all those who attended the play, and we thank Gabriela Kohen for sharing her story, which is a gift to all who have the opportunity to be her witness.

Houston Hosts Event to Benefit Foundation Scholarships

This past October, five of us from Houston (Patricia Barth, catered by a local chef. We also had a delightful surprise DFAGPA, Carol Vaughan, LCSW, CGP, LFAGPA, Bob White, MD, CGP, LFAGPA, and Sara Jane White, PhD, FAICP) hosted and sponsored our annual event to raise money for scholarships to AGPA Connect. This was the fourth year we've hosted a fundraiser for the Foundation. Deciding to do something different from our usual wine and food tradition, we brought in Peter Olsson, MD, from New Hampshire to discuss his book, The Making of a Homegrown Terrorist.

Nearly 50 people attended the event, which was held in an Archway gallery. Dr Olsson generously provided three To add to the excitement of AGPA Connect being in of his books, which were given away in a drawing. The Houston, AGPA will be honoring three AGPA/Houston event was enhanced by the wine and appetizers that were GPS leaders: Elizabeth Knight will be presenting the Insti-

PhD, CGP, DLFAGPA, Elizabeth Knight, MSW, CGP, with the attendance of Marsha Block, CAE, CFRE, CEO, Angela Stephens, CAE, Professional Development Senior Director, and Lois Miller, CAE, meeting consultant, who were in town for a site visit at the two hotels hosting AGPA Connect. A good time was had by all, and almost \$4,000 was raised to support scholarships for AGPA Connect 2018 being held February 26-March 3 in our hometown of Houston. The scholarships provide much-needed training to students, new professionals, and agency and military employees who would otherwise not be able to attend the

Continues on next page

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We appreciate the provisions these planned gift donors have made for the Group Foundation.

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2017 Community of Givers

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HOUSTON BENEFIT

Continued from front

tute Opening Plenary; Jeanne Pasternak, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA, will be honored as a new Distinguished Fellow; and Patricia Barth will be the featured speaker at the annual Fellows Breakfast hosted by the Group Foundation.

Anita Evans

Nanine Ewing

Barbara Feld

Hit by Hurricane Harvey at the end of August 2017, this has been a hard year for Houstonians. Many homes in all areas of Houston were totally flooded. It will take minimally the better part of the next year for Houstonians to get back into their homes and for this city to get back to normalcy. However with the spirit of Houston, this city has come together to help one another like none other. Likewise, we are pleased to be able to do our part in helping the Group Foundation support scholarship attendees. AGPA, Houston welcomes you.

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Connie Concannon, LCSW, CGP, DFAGPA

MANAGING EDITOR Marsha Block, CAE, CFRE

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