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PAST PRESIDENT – Jana Rosenbaum, LCSW, FAGPA, CGP

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

INSTITUTE COMMITTEE – Mara Gittess, LPC  
and Co Chair Elyssa Fink, LCSW

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Ariela Alpert,  
LCSW and Leticia Fallick, LPC

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Moore, MEd, LPC, CGP

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE –  
Audrey Ryman, LCSW, CGP and Elizabeth  
Haberer, LCSW

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Guy Bender,  
LPC

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PhD

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Charisse Ferrer, LPC

CONTINUING EDUCATION – Beverly Du, MD,  
MPH

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Aaron Fink, MD,  
FAGPA, CGP

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS – Brittany Burch,  
LCSW-S, LCDC, CGP and Erika Sosa, LMSW,  
LCDC

HGPS is the organizational and professional voice for the multidisciplinary mental health community trained in the practice of group psychotherapy. While adhering to the highest standards of excellence, HGPS offers unique opportunities for educational growth and for expanding knowledge of the many facets of group psychotherapy from fundamental group concepts to advanced practice skills.



## HGPS Annual Institute

Houston Group Psychotherapy Society (HGPS) is hosting a one-day conference on Friday, October 19, 2018, with Keynote Speaker Sandra Lopez, LCSW, ACSW, presenting “Diversity within Diversity: The Intersection of Identities within Groups.” Sandra Lopez’s two-part Ethics presentation will examine the contemporary views of culture in all of its different forms and will explore a paradigm for appreciating cultural diversity and integrating cultural humility in the clinical practice area. This will include an experiential application of a culturally competent approach. Alternating with Ms. Lopez’s presentation, there will be breakout groups, each with a theme that ties into the topic of diversity. Institute Chair Mara Gittess, LPC, and her hardworking committee have done an amazing job organizing this exciting event.

### HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 2017

The annual HGPS Holiday Party was graciously hosted by Karen and Strode Pennebaker at their home on December 9, 2017. Guests were entertained by Hanna and Elizabeth, two HSPVA students, who sang Christmas carols and encouraged everyone to join in the singing. They were accompanied by Ariela Alpert on violin. In addition, the gifted musicians played some of Ariela’s own compositions. It was a lovely opportunity for HGPS members to celebrate our friendship and professional support.

*Please see pictures on Page 3.*



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Two new SIGs have been formed this year. The Diversity SIG met in September for general discussion and to meet new participants interested in diversity. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on December 9 at 5:30 at Montrose Center. Brittany Burch is the chairperson of this SIG. The LGBTQ SIG, co-chaired by Kara Grant & Becca Whitson, met with Brittany to discuss a vision for collaboration between the LGBTQ and Diversity SIG and possible training opportunities/goals. The Jungian SIG continues to be active and usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month. The time and place of meeting is announced in the WIRE each month as well as to our list of interested attendees and supporters.

The SIG is free and open to all in Houston Group as well as potential members who have an interest in exploring a Jungian approach in group and individual practice. Besides the good fellowship shares in this small group setting, participants are engaged in study and discussion of Donald Kalsched's Trauma and the Soul.

## BROWN BAGS 2017—2018

Connie Moore, LPC, CGP, Training and Education Chair, continues to provide a rich array of advanced group training through HGPS Friday Brown Bags. In July, Aaron H. Fink, MD, CGO, FAGPA, led an experiential group titled "Child Group Therapy: What We Can Learn From Its Infancy." Other Brown Bag presentations included:

September, 8, 2017 - "The Aftermath of Hurricane Harvey: Where Do We Go From Here?" with Helen Chong, LCSW-S, CGP and President of HGPS, and Daniel DeBrule, Ph.D., H.S.P.P.

November 10, 2017 - "CAREGIVERS' NARRATIVES: EMPATHY, FATIGUE and RESILIENCY," a 3- hour Brown Bag/Workshop with D. Thomas Stone, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA and Robert Kalter, MD, CGP.

January 12, 2018 - "Baby-Boomers, Gen-Xers and Millennials through a Multicultural Lens" with Christine Henry, Ph.D.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HGPS will be sponsoring our own Team for this year's National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk in Houston on May 5th. The 5K walk will take place at Sam Houston Park, downtown Houston.

Each year NAMI Walks take place across the nation to raise awareness about Mental Illness and to raise funding to support their mission. By registering for the walk, you are supporting the many vital services and resources NAMI provides to our community. Family, friends, and colleagues are also encouraged to participate.

For more information about the NAMI Walk for Greater Houston, please follow this link:

<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.event&eventID=690>

To register to participate with the HGPS team, please follow this link:

<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=19251>

## TRAINING/EDUCATION

HGPS continues to provide experiential and didactic group psychotherapy training to students and residents of Baylor College of Medicine and University of Texas Medical School. HGPS Faculty includes Patricia Barth, PHD, CGP, DLFAGPA, LMFT; Travis Courville, LCSW, FAGPA, CGP; Aaron Fink; Franklin Gittess, MD; Cindy Hearne, PhD, CGP; Elizabeth Knight; Jennifer Markey, Ph.D.; Valorie George, LCSW; Jana Rosenbaum, LCSW, CGP; Carol Vaughan, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA; and Robert White, M.D., FAGPA, CGP.

## NEW MEMBERS 2017

Kelley Dawson-Affiliate ° Susan Lange-Affiliate  
Bill Levy-Affiliate ° Daniel Garcia-Affiliate  
Kendall Pfeffer-Student ° Roaalia Vazquez-Affiliate  
Rebecca Whiston-Affiliate ° Nubia Lluberes-Clinical  
Nanette Tashnek-Affiliate ° Dani Pelfier- Affiliate  
Chelsea Mas Caughelty- Affiliate  
Stephanie Baldwin-Clinical ° Jill Gracely-Affiliate  
Greta Bellinger-Affiliate ° Jayna Haney-Clinical



## CELE OF APPROVAL (OR NOT)

This column is definitely a NOT.

I am becoming more and more depressed and appalled over the loss of the art of conversation. It is not just a loss; many folks are abandoning the art of conversation.

I have to tell you something I saw about three months ago. I was at a fast food restaurant demolishing a hamburger when I noticed the table across from mine. There were six boys, about 10 or 11 years old and their coach. The kids had on uniforms, so I guessed they were coming from or going to a game. Five of the six were sort of eating while attentively manipulating their smart phones. One boy and the coach were eating, but they were at opposite ends of the table. Not a word of conversation passed among this group. I was horrified. How could they be a team when they don't communicate with each other?

All right, I confess: This is a rant.

Years ago in Paris Sam and I saw a wonderful documentary on early education in Norway. These were pre-schoolers learning to socialize. They were learning to share, to disagree, learning how to make a win-win out of an angry or frustrating situation. Their teachers were guiding them through the process. I am absolutely sure those now adults engage in the art of conversation.

Our U.S. kids attached to their devices where they play games endlessly will not have a clue about how to interview for a job, or how to connect with a girl they like, or how to master the many skills it takes to be successful.

While I am in rant mode, I will tell you what I think of social media. It is a new technology with no standards. People have their reputations destroyed with no attribution. If you don't want future employers to see it, don't post it: a good rule of thumb.

And I am terrified of artificial intelligence. I don't have a clue how it will affect the human race. But if humans aren't talking to each other anyway, the prospects are daunting.

I'm an old lady and will be 91 in January. What do I know of all this digital foolishness? The world has passed me by. And yes, I have a dumb phone.

One more thing about group therapy: Think of a group with each member on his or her smart phone. Can the therapist tell them to put their devices in a bowl in the waiting room?

Cele S. Keeper

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## HOLIDAY PARTY 2017

