

Philadelphia Area
Group Psychotherapy Society
presents

**UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA:
THE CHALLENGE FOR GROUP THERAPISTS**

Karen Merriam, MSW, LSWC

**Friday, November 10, 2006
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

**Hopkinson House
604 South Washington Square
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

The program will take place in the Solarium. Hopkinson House is on 6th Street between Walnut and Locust. Parking is available in a garage under the building or on the street.

3 CE credits for psychologists—see below for details.

THE PROGRAM

A common thread unites various types of trauma, from the personal, such as childhood abuse and car crashes, to the collective, such as war and natural disasters. Group therapy offers a human connection that is invaluable for trauma survivors, who often feel isolated and disconnected from the world. However, in order to create a safe and effective environment, the therapist needs a firm grasp of trauma theory and related clinical principles, as well as sensitivity to cultural differences.

This workshop provides examples of successful intervention techniques for trauma survivors, illustrating issues of safety, competition, decompensation, and suicide risk.

The workshop also addresses the crucial topic of self-care for therapists engaged in trauma work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Provide a definition of trauma and identify three therapeutic goals specific to effective group treatment of trauma survivors.
- Identify and describe symptoms of traumatic process and experience that might arise in the group therapy setting.
- Identify three or more group therapeutic modalities/interventions appropriate for the treatment of trauma survivors.

THE SPEAKER

Karen Merriam, MSW, LSW, has been a specialist in the field of psychological and catastrophic trauma for over thirty years. Based in San Luis Obispo, California, she has lectured throughout the country and has provided education, training, and consultation services to agencies, mental health professionals, and individuals. She is the author of *Searching for Connection: An Exploration of Trauma, Culture and Hope* (2006). She is also co-author of *Talking It Out: A Guide to Groups for Abused Women* (1984).

As a consultant to the Hospice of San Luis Obispo County Community Crisis Response Program, she trains staff and volunteer counselors in trauma theory, protocols for crisis response interventions, methods for crisis response counseling, and dynamics of group counseling.

Karen Merriam received her MSW in Social Work and Social Research from Bryn Mawr College. Additional information about her writings can be found at www.searchingforconnection.com

SCHEDULE

9–9:30 a.m. — Registration. A continental breakfast will be provided.

9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. — Program. Please note that we will begin **promptly** at 9:30 a.m.

REGISTRATION

\$40 for PAGPS members
\$50 for non-members
\$20 for students/interns

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Attendance entitles psychologists to 3 CE credits. PAGPS is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. PAGPS maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Attendees will also receive 3 recertification credits, useful for individuals listed in the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations received at least five working days before the event are refundable less a \$10 processing fee.

MEMBERSHIP

The Philadelphia Area Group Psychotherapy Society is an Affiliate Society of the American Group Psychotherapy Society (AGPA).

Membership in PAGPS is open to AGPA members as well as mental health workers, students, interns, or trainees who are actively engaged in group work but who are not members of AGPA.

Members receive discounts on registration for PAGPS conferences and may list their group(s) on the PAGPS website.

For a membership application, please contact
Elsa R. Efran, M.S., PAGPS Administrator
310 E. Gowen Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19119-1022

Phone: 215-242-4234

E-mail: info@pagps.org

Website: www.pagps.org

REGISTRATION (please print CLEARLY)

Feel free to duplicate this form as needed for additional registrations.

Name _____ Degree _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Field: Psychiatry Psychology Social Work Counseling
 Other _____

I need a certificate for APA CE credits.

I need a certificate for CGP credits.

Registration Fee enclosed:

PAGPS members @ \$40 _____

Non-members @ \$50 _____

Students/interns @ \$20 _____

Please make checks payable to PAGPS.

Mail to:
PAGPS c/o Elsa R. Efran, Administrator
310 E. Gowen Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19119-1022