

# Westchester Group Psychotherapy Society

An Affiliate of the American Group Psychotherapy Association

[www.wgps.org](http://www.wgps.org)

Westchester Group Psychotherapy Society (WGPS) SW CPE is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0310.

Westchester Group Psychotherapy Society announces a Special Workshop by **Robert H. Klein, Ph.D, ABPP, FAPA, DLFAGPA, CGP** and **Victor L. Schermer, MA, L FAGPA** on **“Serious Fun: Spontaneity, Creativity and Play in Group Therapy”**

## Description:

Disorders such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder severely limit the life space and the members' potential for novel healing responses. Yet traditional therapy focuses on conflicts and the past rather than new possibilities. We are going to focus on the role of humor, imagination, and play in the transitional space (Winnicott) of the group. This creates movement beyond the “work group” to a “self-actualizing group” where divergent thinking (Bruner) and “co-improvisation” creates new possibilities for living and being. Our perspective is supported by recent research in the neuroscience of creativity.

## Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Identify 3 ways that traditional group psychotherapy training limits the use of spontaneity, imagination and play in our clinical work
2. List 2 potential benefits and 2 potential pitfalls of using techniques to promote increased spontaneity, imagination and play in clinical work
3. Assess on a scale of 1 to 10 their own comfort/discomfort in using such techniques in their groups

## Presenter:

**Robert H. Klein, Ph.D, ABPP, FAPA, DLFAGPA, CGP** has been a faculty member at the Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT. for more than 35 years. He is a recognized expert in the area of group psychotherapy who lectures, consults and supervises both nationally and internationally. The author of more than 100 publications, plus co-author/co-editor of 7 books, he maintains a private clinical practice with offices in Westport and Milford, CT.

**VICTOR L. SCHERMER, MA, L FAGPA** is a psychologist in private practice in Philadelphia, PA. He is a Life Fellow of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. Schermer has co-authored/co-edited eight books, been guest editor for six special editions of group psychotherapy journals, and written over 40 articles and reviews in group psychotherapy and other subjects. He is a frequent presenter of lectures, workshops, and panels internationally. In 2006, he gave the Annual S.H. Foulkes Lecture for the Group Analytic Society in London.

Klein & Schermer co-edited two special editions of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*:

*Toward Understanding and Treating Violence in America: Some Contributions from Group Dynamic and Group Therapy*

*Perspectives* (65, 1, 2; 2015). Republished in book form, *Violence in America* (Routledge, December 2016). Klein & Schermer have also co-edited 3 other books together: *Group Psychotherapy for Psychological Trauma*, *Leadership in a Changing World* and *On Becoming a Psychotherapist*

hosted by

┌ **NewYork-Presbyterian**  
└ **Westchester Division**

This presentation will be held on April 28, 2017 from 12 noon to 2pm at STAFF CONFERENCE CENTER ANNEX 2, Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, NY 10605. (This is a handicap accessible facility, however, visual and hearing aids will not be provided)

This presentation is free for WGPS Members, \$25 Non-Members, \$15 for NYPH Employees, and \$15 Students or New Professionals. Scholarships available and lunch is included.

**2 Contact Hour/CE credits are available to LMSWs and LCSWs upon completion of registration, attendance to entire workshop, license presentation, and payment. Course evaluation will occur from 2:00pm-2:15pm.**

To reserve a seat, please contact Dr. Gloria Batkin Kahn at (914) 428-0957 or [globatkahn@gmail.com](mailto:globatkahn@gmail.com)