

PRESIDENT'S PEN - DECEMBER 2018

I am so pleased to be sending out the first "President's Pen" as the newly selected president of IASWG. I want to introduce myself to you as I commence the first year of my three-year term. I have a deep commitment to social group work and have been a proud member of IASWG since attending the Quebec City Symposium in 1997. I served as chapter chair of the Toronto chapter of IASWG from 2001-2010, was elected as a member-at-large of the IASWG board from 2010-2014 and acted as co-chair of the IASWG practice committee from 2014-2018. My work experience includes many years as a social work practitioner, primarily in the area of pediatric mental health and health, as well as in social work education (Assistant Professor, Status only, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, Canada), research and administration (recently retired Director of Social Work at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada). I hope that this broad experience will allow me to ensure the voices of group work practitioners, administrators, academics, and researchers will be heard across IASWG.

The November IASWG board meeting was an exciting event, with our three new members-at-large, Poppy Masinga (South Africa), Linda Ducca (Spain) and Roseprimevere Jacques (United States) joining the board. Our two co-Vice Presidents, Ginette Berteau (Canada) and Reineth Prinsloo (South Africa) and I were thrilled to welcome them to our growing and internationally diverse board. We were also pleased to welcome our newest chapter to IASWG, the Alberta chapter, with Matthew Miller as chapter chair, representing the 20th chapter of IASWG.

The past six months have been busy ones for the organization. We had the privilege of experiencing a symposium in Kruger National Park, in South Africa in June. The Lithuanian chapter of IASWG held a group work camp in October. The Toronto chapter co-hosted a mini-groupwork camp with the Ontario association of Social Workers in November. The Massachusetts chapter held a November event, When It Gets Real: Navigating Challenging Moments in Groups.

The IASWG symposium planning committee is actively at work, designing an exciting June event. Please mark the date: June 5-8, 2019. The theme of this year's symposium is: Group work in communities: Breaking down barriers - building global connections. We look forward to receiving your [submissions](#) for oral and poster presentations.

As we look ahead to the holiday season, we would like to remind you that now more than ever, it is the time for group work. As our IASWG statement reads: "We need to find ways to become inclusive, to celebrate our differences and to generate a powerful sense of togetherness... Social groupwork can create security where there is uncertainty, a feeling of belonging where there is alienation, and a vehicle for positive, communal action where there is a sense of helplessness." Please join us in this mission through joining or renewing your IASWG [membership](#)!

We hope to see you in June. But in the meantime, we wish you a happy, healthy holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Barb Muskat
IASWG President

Social Work with Groups Journal

Making Waves:
Group Work Stories of
Social Justice

Call for Papers

The Social Work with Groups Journal is inviting narrative essays of 5 to 9 manuscript pages, about group work practice that facilitates social justice worldwide.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Deadline: June 15, 2019

Seeking Participants in SPARC Study

Reconceptualizing the
Role of Diversity in
Group Development

**Do you want to play
a part in developing
a new model of
group work
practice?**

You're invited to be part of a research project by researchers at the University of Calgary. The purpose of this project is to discover how group work practitioners can utilize diversity to promote group development.

**If you agree to
participate, you will
be asked to engage**

2019 IASWG New York City Symposium
June 5 - 8, 2019 at New York University

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Symposium Planning Committee, co-sponsored by the New York University Silver School of Social Work, invites you to [submit proposals](#) for 30-minute, 60-minute, or poster presentations for consideration at the 2019 IASWG NYC Symposium.

Proposals may be submitted in English, French, Lithuanian, Spanish or German, and sessions at symposium may be conducted in these languages as well.

[Continuing Education Units \(CEUs\) are available!](#)

SYMPOSIUM THEME

Group Work in Communities:

Breaking Down Barriers - Building Global Communities

Literally and figuratively, barriers of all kinds have become omnipresent in today's global political and social climate. Barriers that keep people out, barriers that keep people in, barriers that separate people from families and communities, and above all barriers in hearts and minds that prevent people from seeing each other with compassion in all their humanity and diversity. We see these barriers being erected all over the world. One of the tasks of social group work is to dismantle these barriers using the venues of activism, community development, as well as group work in schools, mental health and health care settings, the criminal justice system and law enforcement along with other institutions in urban, rural, and suburban locations in order to help people live fully realized lives by building relationships and strengthening global communities.

in the following process:

1. Lead a treatment group of approximately 6-12 sessions as you normally would.

2. Engage with the research team in training regarding the model of working with diversity that has been developed from this project.

3. Repeat step #1, this time implementing the model and training.

4. The research team will analyze the model of diversity by comparing the group recordings and measurement tools from steps 1 and 3.

If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact:

William Pelech
Principal Investigator
pelech@ucalgary.ca

[LEARN MORE](#)



[SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL HERE!](#)

To submit an abstract, click [here](#).

or copy and paste the following link into your browser:
<https://aaswgreg.confex.com/aaswgreg/41/cfp.cgi>

Important Deadlines

- Proposals are due by January 31st.
- Poster proposals are due by March 4th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: www.iaswg.org/2019symposium

Email: symposium@iaswg.org

Call: 718-316-0299