

Group News - March 2018



The International Association for Social Work with Groups

2018 SOUTH AFRICA INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 7 – JUNE 10, 2018

**Kruger National Park
Skukuza Rest Camp**

Plan Your Trip to South Africa

- 1) [Reserve Your Lodging](#)
(deadline to reserve is 31 March 2018)
- 2) [Register for the Symposium](#)
- 3) [Book Flight to Johannesburg International Airport](#)
- 4) [Arrange Transportation to Skukuza Rest Camp](#)



BOOK YOUR LODGING BY MARCH 30, 2018

The deadline to reserve your housing is 30 March 2018.

We have a group booking for very reasonably-priced and conveniently-located accommodations in the Skukuza Rest Camp in the Kruger National Park. [Click here for to book your lodging.](#)

If you are looking to share a room, please contact symposium@iaswg.org.

Register for the Symposium

[To register for the symposium, visit our online portal.](#)

If you would like to bring your partner or your family with you to the symposium, we offer an **accompanying person registration rate** which includes Friday breakfast, 2 lunches (Friday and Saturday), 2 days of paid conservation fees (Friday & Saturday), and 4 coffee/tea breaks (Friday & Saturday). For an additional cost, they are welcome to attend the [Wednesday Community Visit](#) (\$50/person) and Saturday Gala Bush Braai (\$50/person). Register your accompanying person, as part of your registration, through our [symposium registration portal](#).

Daily Schedule

Thursday, June 7th

- Outstitute Community Visit with social workers and children of South Africa
- *Boma Fire (informal dinner & gathering)*

Friday, June 8th

- Welcome Breakfast
- Presentations (*Lunch included*)

Saturday, June 9th

- Presentations (*Lunch included*)
- *Gala (includes Game Drive & Bush Braai)*

Sunday, June 10th

- Half-day Experiential Session (*Outdoors in Kruger National Park, similar to Group Work Camp*)



A local women's group making bags for symposium attendees. Your registration fee is helping to support the efforts of local organizations near Kruger National Park.

President's Pen, March 2018

Greetings,

This is our first Group News of the 2018 year, and it provides an opportunity to share the most recent IASWG news about our IASWG advocacy and activities, including news about our exciting 2018 IASWG South Africa Symposium at the beautiful Kruger National Park in South Africa. Many feel South Africa is the most beautiful country in the world, and our conference site on the grounds of the globally famous Kruger National Park is lovely and tech-ready for our group work presentations; the symposium should provide us with an unforgettable educational and social experience.

South Africa Symposium

We have accepted over 100 wonderful presentation submissions from presenters traveling to the event from across the globe, including some very exciting presentation submissions from many South Africa academics and practitioners. Over 60 global students have registered to volunteer, and many of them will present their scholarly poster presentations. You can make plans to attend the symposium by checking out our IASWG website for information on: 1) Housing- make reservations for the charming affordable housing at Kruger National Park we have arranged under a group rate for our group visit; 2) Registration- our IASWG conference registration rate is very reasonable; 3) Travel Plans- the plane fares from many global cities are reasonable for non-stop flights. Our IASWG Board has approved the three Plenaries conceived/arranged by IASWG South Africa Symposium Planner Reineth Prinsloo, and all three Plenary presentations involve fascinating topics given by presenters from outside of North America. The schedule of daily events includes: lovely breakfasts, lunches, and evening safaris and dinners surrounded by the beauty of South Africa on the grounds of the Park; special events we have planned, including both a visit with the children of South Africa as well as activities to celebrate the artistic work of the women of South Africa; and lots of socializing opportunities with group workers from numerous countries, including many social group work practitioners and educators from South Africa. Our wonderful group work colleagues from our IASWG South Africa

Chapter are ready to provide us with a wonderful visit to their beautiful country. They chose the 2018 symposium theme of "Bridging the Divide: Group Work for Social Justice" because they believe "the core of social group work is the need to bridge the divide to develop mutual aid to foster a socially just society where all members have the same opportunities to attain material goods, income, and wealth." Attendance at the IASWG South Africa Symposium contributes to the message of this theme, and promises to be a life changing experience. I look forward to joining together in June with those who can make it to our historic IASWG symposium event in South Africa! Our IASWG Symposium Planner, Emily Wilk, and our IASWG 2018 Symposium Planning Committee (led by Reineth Prinsloo), supported by our IASWG Symposium Planning Committee and our IASWG Board, are on track to provide us with a great symposium experience.

IASWG Chapter Activity

We have heard news from many of our IASWG Chapter folks that they have been holding meetings and events during the past few months (or will hold events soon during the spring and summer months): The Toronto Chapter had a successful gathering of ongoing and new members at the University of Toronto two months ago; the Florida Chapter reports they have been holding a variety of well-attended meetings for their chapter members in recent weeks; the Massachusetts Chapter is planning a full-day conference in April (see notice in this Group News); our newest IASWG Chapter, the Northern New England Chapter, led by Chapter Chair Kristina Lind, will be bringing approximately 10 students to the IASWG 2018 South Africa Symposium as volunteers and poster presenters, after bringing a large number of students to our past two symposia; and the German Chapter just completed a successful three-day conference (and they are starting to plan a big event next year to celebrate their founding.) Our IASWG Chapters had representatives at the recent IASWG Board meeting, and everyone was impressed with the reports by the Chapter Representatives on Saturday morning detailing each of their chapter's accomplishments. The work of our chapters is vital to the success and growth of IASWG, and it was great to hear from the chapters represented at the Board meeting. Visit our website and you will see some evidence of the good work being done by IASWG Chapters. We seem to be adding a new chapter or two each year; in fact, IASWG members in Calgary, Canada, have their application process moving along, and several IASWG members from Spain will be attending the IASWG South Africa Symposium with plans to start an IASWG Chapter in Spain soon.

IASWG Group Work Camps

The Chairperson of the IASWG Lithuania Chapter, Jorūnė Vyšniauskytė-Rimkienė, has shared that her chapter members are making arrangements for many IASWG members to gather in Birstonas, Lithuania next October for an IASWG Group Work Camp; in 2015, the Lithuania Chapter held a very successful IASWG Group Work Camp in Birstonas for many IASWG members from across the globe, and they are once again working on designing educational presentations and exciting activities for all international attendees who can join them for their IASWG Group Work Camp event. The IASWG Francophone Chapter also held a very successful IASWG Group Work Camp last summer in Montreal, and many IASWG members attended. These two successful and well-attended IASWG Group Work Camps in Birstonas and Montreal emerged from the IASWG Group Work Camp concept originally conceived by Ann Bergart in the U.S; the IASWG Lake Geneva Group Work Camp in Wisconsin continues to thrive under the leadership of John Genke and Jen Clements, and was very well attended last summer

IASWG Board

The recent IASWG Board meeting had full representation from our many IASWG Chapter leaders and IASWG Committee leaders, and the result was an active and productive meeting. New Board Committee Co-Chairs include: Sam Benbow (Pennsylvania Chapter) joining Meghan O'Donnell as Co-Chairs of the IASWG Membership Committee; Martin Camire (Francophone Chapter) joining Kyle McGee as Co-Chairs of the IASWG Nominations and Elections Committee;

and Christine Wilkins (NYC Red Apple Chapter) joining Dana Leeman as Co-Chairs of the IASWG Symposium Planning Committee. Our three newest Board members (Lorrie Gardella, Helene Onserud, Shirley Simon), elected by the IASWG membership as of November, 2017, joined us for their first Board meeting in November; all three are beginning to assume various tasks as part of their Board service during their three year terms. All Committee Chairs/Co-chairs are working with their Committee members on various activities for the 2018 year. For example: The Membership Committee has been holding regular phone conferences to brainstorm about ways to ensure all members are satisfied and plan to renew their IASWG memberships for 2018, and in order to grow/support in the membership base, the Membership Committee has sent out a letter to all current members to thank them for their membership, and has also designed a PowerPoint presentation to share with all new members attending the upcoming IASWG South Africa Symposium; The Nominations and Elections Committee members are working on innovations for more effective IASWG Board recruitment, and plan to begin their work on the 2018 election process soon; The IASWG Commission Committee continues to oversee our social group work education publications by maintaining our progress on publishing our IASWG Symposium Proceedings (look for the IASWG NYC Symposium Proceedings and the IASWG North Carolina Proceedings to be published within the next six months), and by joining at times with the IASWG Marketing Committee to ensure IASWG representation at various gathering/conferences in global locations, including in recent years representation at the annual CSWE conference in the U.S. which includes our annual IASWG-CSWE Partnership Presentation, the upcoming U.N. Day at the United Nations site in NYC, and the upcoming IASSW-ICSW-IFSW international conference in Dublin, Ireland (in 2014 IASWG was represented at the IASSW-ICSW-IFSW international conference in Melbourne, Australia.)

IASWG Website

Our IASWG website now features on our homepage our IASWG Standards in 3 languages. Also, check out our IASWG website for helpful information on: resources for group workers across the globe; committee news/reports; member news; chapter updates; and information on IASWG international events/projects. We strive to keep the website updated and active.

Global Identity

IASWG has made some gains in increasing/improving our global identity, and it is our priority to continue to focus on enriching this identity. Through the work/activities/events of our organization, we try to make a concerted effort to model/represent the importance of global group connection; as an organization composed of international group workers, we know that without global group connection nothing of great significance can be achieved. Our IASWG International Issues Committee consistently examines/addresses current/future issues related to our expanding international identity (e.g. communication methods, travel costs, membership outreach, and translation needs); IASWG recognizes that our primary role is to support all group workers across the globe who are trying to sustain and promote group work practice, education, and research.

Thank you

Continued appreciation to all of you for your dedicated membership in IASWG. We are working hard to sustain group work education, practice, and research to promote our IASWG mission/goal to support group work internationally. We look forward to continuing to communicate with you during 2018 (and beyond).

Greg Tully, IASWG President

IASWG News, Events & Resources

[FROM OUR LITHUANIAN CHAPTER](#)

[FROM OUR MASSACHUSETTS](#)

Kolegų vokiečių (German Chapter) organizuojamas seminaras džiugino ne tik nuostabių pavasariu, bet ir naujaisiais socialinio darbo su grupe metodais. Konsulatvimas panaudojant naujaisias technologijas (digital-story telling), skulptūravimas, gyvavimo reljefo metodas ir daugelis kitų instrumentų atskleidė, dar daugiau naujaisių socialinio darbo su grupe galimybių. Moments from workshop organized by colleagues from the IASWG German Chapter. It was a wonderful time learning new methods working with groups.



IASWG

When the facilitator joins the group:

navigating use of self in times of collective trauma

keynote by
DiDi Delgado from

The International Association For Social Work with Groups - Massachusetts Chapter
Annual Spring Conference - April 6th, 2018
Wheelock College iaswgma.org/conference2018



Congrats Andy!

We're proud to announce that Andrew Malekoff, has won the Folio Award from the Fair Media Council for best column for his article titled "Looking for a Path Back to Civility," which appeared in Newsday on September 17, 2017.

[Click here to read the article.](#)



Social Work Students

CALL FOR PHOTOS!

How does Group Work promote social justice?
How does Group Work bridge social divides around the world?

We will use your photo in
THE SOCIAL JUSTICE BRIDGE
An Art Installation for the 2018 IASWG Symposium in South Africa

Email: Social Justice Bridge

- 1) JPEG image
- 2) Narrative (50 words or less): What your picture means to you
- 3) Bio: Your name, email, university, country, and selfie (optional)
- 4) By April 1
- 5) To: Lorrie (lggardella@gmail.com) and Reineth (reineth.prinsloo@up.ac.za)

Thank you!

International Association for Social Work with Groups
www.iaswg.org



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for Social Work with Groups**
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In Memoriam - George Getzel

It is with much sadness that IASWG shares with you that our beloved IASWG colleague, George Getzel, passed away recently after a long illness. When George was named "IASWG Honoree" at our 2002 IASWG Symposium, Alex Gitterman remarked in the IASWG Symposium program that George was "a social worker with vision and courage"; Alex shared these additional remarks in the program: "A gifted teacher and prolific scholar, George made a profound contribution to his students' professional development and to the professions' literature. To his students, he modeled a commitment to advocacy and social justice and to creative group work practice. To the profession, he modeled

writing with soul about really important social and practice issues.”

George was a long-time faculty member at the Hunter College School of Social Work, and his teaching and scholarship impacted many of us in IASWG during his years of teaching in NYC, including his many years at Hunter teaching alongside Roselle Kurland and Bob Salmon. Hunter released a formal message upon George's passing: “He began his academic career in 1970, became a professor emeritus in 2002, and retired from teaching in 2009. George was a passionate advocate of the group work method of social work. He was an inspiration to those of us privileged to have known him as a colleague and friend. His dedication to his students and his family was only surpassed by their devotion to him. The work of his social work students and the love of his family and friends will be his lasting legacy...you may offer condolences by writing to: The Getzel Family, 3967 Sedgwick Avenue, Apartment 17B, Bronx, New York, 10463.”

Many of us visited or communicated with George during his recent time in hospice at Calvary Hospital; his final months of life were spent gracefully and peacefully with family and friends. IASWG member, Ginny Abrams, a very good friend of George for many years, shared that her visits to Calgary to be with him were “a lesson in how to face this time in life with equanimity and grace... (and) at a time when group work is not getting the attention it deserves in academia, I fervently hope his work and vision for a better, more humane society, that he spoke of almost to the end, will be noted.” Ginny also encouraged all of us to read a writing selection by George that she sent to some friends after George died; published in the Summer of 2010 in the journal, *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, it is entitled: “[My final lecture explained.](#)” (The journal's abstract explains: In this narrative, we are presented with some of the most prescient ideas on the mission of the profession of social work, as well as the responsibilities of the social work practitioner and educator.)

Although George shared that he didn't want any special formal event marking his death, many of us in IASWG think he would have been comforted by an informal gathering. The 2018 symposium is not in NYC this year, so there will not be a symposium opportunity in NYC for IASWG friends of George to meet. George was an active participant in recent years at IASWG NYC Red Apple Chapter events, and several NYC area IASWG members are initiating plans to gather for an afternoon or evening informal group event to discuss his scholarly group work contributions and to share stories about him. More information will be shared in upcoming months about this event envisioned for this summer or early fall.



[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

There are December chapter events in North Carolina, NYC, and Toronto. Browse our comprehensive listing of chapter events, conferences, and meetups.



[TEACHING GROUP WORK](#)

View syllabi submitted by IASWG members, as examples of materials used for teaching social work with groups in social work education.



[GROUP WORK STRATEGIES](#)

Scroll through practice tips and printed resources.
Check out the new post:
[Aligning Group Work with the IASWG Standards for Social Work Practice](#)

[Visit our website](#)

