President’s Message
Kimberly Asner-Self

My dear colleagues in Group: this is my last column as President of ASGW. And what a year it has been! There are so many people to thank, so much work that got done, and so much work to be done. Finally, I want to introduce you to the new Board.

First, I want thank YOU for being an ASGW member. I want to thank you for believing in the power of group counseling, group dynamics, group work in all its many settings. I want to thank you group workers in the schools, in the agencies, in business, in college counseling centers, in counselor education, and in private practice. I want to thank those of you who write about their group practices and those of you who do research on groups. I want to thank those of you who send manuscripts to the Journal for Specialists in Group Work to help disseminate important scholarship to group work specialists to use in their own areas. I want to thank those of you on the JSGW Editorial Board for reviewing and working tirelessly to promote our work. I want to thank those of you who presented at the ASGW conference this year and those of you who attended and all who took something home to use in your own group work. YOU are the reason group work is done ethically, efficiently, and effectively—both here in the US and overseas; within cultures and across cultures.

Second, let’s talk about what was done this year. The Board, YOUR Board, worked to incorporate a way of governance that would encourage YOU to be more involved and connected to ASGW. It’s a board governance model that allows for us to be both flexible in a changing world (through technology, social justice, and research) primarily through committee work, and organized enough to provide continuity through an Executive Director. Which means re-envisioning our committees, our Executive Director position and needs, our social media presence, and our product development. This means re-envisioning our by-laws and our professional standards. The by-laws have to be addressed as we re-engineer our committees; our professional standards have to be addressed as we consider group work within a multicultural and social justice framework.

Third, we need YOU to be willing to get involved. We need you to volunteer to be on committees, to be willing to meet as committees (gotta love Skype and Adobe Connect), and to be in contact with your Board members. There are several committees and yes, they are changing, but the changes need YOUR input. We have numerous committees. Interested in being involved in Conference Planning? We have the ASGW National Conference Planning Committee. How about working on those Bylaw changes? There’s a committee for that, too. Like International Group Work? We got it. How about Professional Standards? We could really use a dynamic team of volunteers there. How about those of you who like designing needs assessments, and webpages, and recruiting, how about checking out the Membership committee? And we have a Research committee, a Human Rights and Diversity committee, and Graduate Student and New Professional committee, and more.

Fourth, I want thank the current Board: Jonathan Orr, Amy Nitza, Theresa Coogan, Deb Rubel, Niloufer Merchant, Janice DeLucia, Sam Steen, and Lorraine Guth. Each of you in your own way, have been mentors, colleagues, and friends. You are the finest Board with whom I have ever worked. I am honored to have been the President of this Board.

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You and I both know this year would never had been successful had we not worked together as the groupies we are. I love you all.

Finally, let me tell you who will be YOUR new Board J come July 1, 2016. Amy Nitza will be your President. She is outstanding and passionate. Cristine Bhat will be your President-Elect. She is committed, organized, and has already attended our last Board meeting at ACA just because of the changes we want YOU to help make. I will be the Past-President, and I will support the President in any way needed, just as Jonathan Orr supported me during a difficult time. Theresa Coogan continues as a very talented, organized, and compassionate treasurer, Stephanie Eberts joins us as our new Secretary, and Niloufer Merchant will continue to represent us well at Governing Council. Janice DeLucia remains as Executive Director, and Lorraine Guth has committed to serve a second year as Process Observer. Our newest ex-officio member and Editor of The Group Worker is Rachel Vannatta. Welcome and let’s get involved!

A Message From the President-Elect

Amy Gibson Nitza

In considering what I wanted to write about here, I found myself reflecting on all the ways in which groups have played a role in my life this week. The result of this reflection is that I think this column might be accurately titled “Why I Am (Still) a Group Worker”.

Some of the group-ish aspects of my week were fairly straightforward. After listening to a speaker on working with LGBTQ populations, one of my students got excited about starting a group for LG-BTQ students at the high school where she is interning. (Bonus: I was able to recommend a brand new book on this topic by our members Melissa Luke and Kristopher Goodrich!) I consulted with a counselor at a local agency who is planning a group for refugee students in a different high school. (Another bonus: I drew from several activities in ASGW’s great activity books to give her some ideas!) And, I began developing a proposal for a conference in Haiti, in which I hope to work.

Other group-ish aspects of my week were less obvious, and might have gone unnoticed by people who don’t typically think in terms of group processes. In discussing a situation involving some negative student interactions in a classroom, my colleague and I considered how we might intervene to promote positive group development in this particular student cohort that seems to be lacking safety and cohesion. In a group supervision meeting, I noticed that one of the counselors seemed to feel like an outsider, and considered ways I could help him feel a greater sense of belonging in the group.

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broader level, many troubling political developments in the news this week can be conceptualized in terms of painful in-group, out-group divisions. I can’t help but think of the power that groups could have in bridging some of these divides.

This is just one quick list generated by one person in one evening. As professionals who specialize in groups, we see situations through a unique lens and bring a unique set of knowledge and skills to the table when dealing with so many different kinds of situations. I am still a group worker because I believe in the power of groups to bring people together and to solve problems. And, I value ASGW because it allows me to connect with others who see situations through the same lens that I do, and who value and appreciate the use of group process to address problems and situations. If you are still reading this column, then I might make the assumption that you are involved in ASGW for similar reasons. Or maybe not; perhaps you are a member of ASGW for an entirely different set of reasons. In what ways have groups played a role in your life recently? Why are you (now, or still) a group worker? Whatever your answers, I trust that you will find in ASGW a community of people with whom you can connect, share, and learn. I look forward to connecting, sharing, and learning with you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JANICE DELUCIA

DEAR ASGW, our organization is making a number of strides in meeting the needs of our constituents in various ways. Meanwhile, I am so proud to be a part of the ASGW Board and we are truly working to serve the members in a comprehensive and thoughtful manner. For instance, we have discussed reaching out to others who may lead groups but do not know about our Association. We also just completed hosting a wonderfully successful ASGW Conference in Washington, DC by way of Old Towne Alexandria, Virginia. Next, we took advantage of various conferences by sponsoring booths at the New York School Counseling Association Conference, the American Counseling Association Conference, and the Tennessee Counseling Association Conference. Further, workshops were conducted with the New York City Guidance Department and the Tennessee Association for Specialists in Group Work. In terms of some new products emerging, we have a new training resource for group workers which includes two volumes by Melissa Luke and Kristopher Goodrich. This book Group Work Experts Share Their Favorite Supervision Activities Volumes 1 and 2 meets a need in the arena of supervision. I am also thrilled to share a new training DVD with experts Ed Jacobs and Christine Schimmel entitled, Leading Groups with Adults: The Art of Engagement. Specific resources we have available that could be useful when facilitating dialogue in groups include Stress Balls that look like dog pawprints, Trash Cans “to get rid of negative thoughts and behaviors” and Lightbulbs to “highlight new ideas”. Also, larger and easier to read Thumballs are now available on multiple topics such as: Resiliency, Stop Bullying, Stop the Drama, Inner Beauty, Teambuilding, Personal Strengths, and Catch-A-Career. Finally, there is an option to purchase items at our store on the newly designed website and this will soon be open with all products available for purchase. Of course, I’ll keep you, the dedicated ASGW members, posted on these products and discounts for obtaining these materials. As always, we are here to serve you!
Greetings ASGW members! First of all, thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to the recent ASGW survey regarding the July 2015 Governing Council (GC) motions to advocate for graduation from a CACREP or CORE accredited program as a pathway to licensure for independent practice and requirement of minimum standards for clinical mental health preparation. Approximately 100 responses were received, with 62% in favor and 38% against. Those in favor indicated that these motions will unify the profession, add credibility with other professions, general population and federal and state governments, and facilitate portability. Those opposed reported that it disadvantages smaller programs with limited financial resources and states that have few or no CACREP programs, adds undue barriers to licensure, and limits the diversity in education.

At the most recent GC meeting in Montreal, CACREP executive director, Dr. Carol Bobby, and Board Chair, Dr. Jeff Parsons, were invited to speak to GC members. GC members had the opportunity to raise questions and concerns (such as the above), and dialogue with the CACREP leadership. While dialog will be ongoing between CACREP and ACA, GC members did support a motion to examine ways that ACA may strengthen its position and decision making such that ACA serves as the voice of the profession and determine its future. As such, our ACA President, Dr. Thelma Duffey, will lead the effort on a licensure portability plan developed by ACA which advocates for and supports all counselors.

A matter of great concern addressed at the GC meeting was the Tennessee House Bill 1840 which permits professional counselors to deny services and refer clients based on the counselor’s “strongly held personal beliefs”. This bill violates ACA’s Code of ethics and is referred to as the “Hate Bill 1840” by Art Terrazas, Director of ACA’s Director of Government Affairs. As I write this column, this bill has been passed by the House and Senate and is awaiting action by Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam. As a result of this bill ACA is currently weighing the options of the 2017 ACA conference scheduled for Nashville, TN. Actions may already be taken by the time you read this report, however, the urgency of the situation continues as this may be the first battle in a much larger war targeting discrimination against LGBTQ communities and other minority groups. Unique also is that this bill specifically targets counselors and the ACA code of ethics and no other mental health professional communities.

Please let your voice be heard in whatever way possible to speak out against such hate bills. And as always, please free to communicate with me on ways that I can best represent you on ACA Governing Council.

Niloufer Merchant, Ed.D.
nmmerchant@stcloudstate.edu
ASGW Governing Council Representative
This year the Awards Committee received some excellent nominations for the Group Work Practice Award. The recipient of this award was announced at the luncheon at the ASGW conference in Alexandria, VA and is featured below.

**Group Work Practice Award**

The Group Work Practice Award is intended to recognize an outstanding practitioner in group work. The recipient of this award is Dr. Sarah I. Springer who is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychological Studies in Education at Temple University. Dr. Springer was selected for this award due to her group work practice in the schools and her scholarship.

As a professional school counselor who practiced for over seven years, Sarah was passionate about infusing group work into her comprehensive school counseling program. During her time as a school counselor, Sarah conducted more than 22 monthly counseling group lessons as well as several small psychoeducational and counseling groups each year. For example, Dr. Springer developed a test taking skills group where she helped approximately 80 students develop strategies for coping with anxiety related to standardized test taking. This group was unique in that it utilized a wellness, strength-based model to attract a diverse group of students, including those who were struggling academically and those who identified as gifted and talented.

Dr. Springer has also shown her commitment to group work through her research. She shared her experiences around a morning fitness group that she ran as a school counselor in a scholarly article published in the *Journal of School Counseling*. She additionally published an article in the *Journal for Specialists in Group Work* that focused on creating innovative ways to teach group leading to pre-service school counselors. Her dissertation also focused on practices that can assist school counselors in becoming more effective, confident group workers. It is clear that her scholarly endeavors are focused on creating more skilled and effective school counselors who are committed to leading groups.

In summary, ASGW is pleased to honor Dr. Sarah Springer for her significant contributions to group work practice.
ALABAMA ASGW had a very successful spring workshop entitled Group Work and Ethical Considerations: Working With Clients in Mental Health and School Settings. President Denise Whittle-Smith lead an exemplary team in planning and executing the group which drew group counselors from mid-Alabama settings. ALASGW also sponsored several presentations at the ALCA Fall Conference.

ILLINOIS ASGW is making great headway in reviving their branch. President Ryan Liberati reports working on a creative website to strengthen membership.

TENNESSEE ASGW has reorganized a previously dormant branch under the leadership of Ginny Dansby and Sandy Ternius. New by-laws are completed and activities with Tennessee CA are being planned.

Please send news of your branch activities to M. Carolyn Thomas at mthomas.aum.edu
The ASGW Awards Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the Barbara Gazda Scholarships for 2016: Ramona Ioana Grad, Priscilla Rose Selvaraj, and Anthony Sica. Ramona is a first year international student in the Counselor Education and Practice doctoral program at Georgia State University. Priscilla is a new professional, an assistant professor of counseling at Trinity International University in Illinois, and a 2015 graduate in counselor education and supervision from Ohio University. Anthony is a first year master’s student in counseling psychology at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This scholarship was named for Barbara Gazda, late wife of George Gazda, pioneer in the field of group work and ASGW’s first president. To honor Barbara’s strong support of her husband and of ASGW, the scholarship was created to carry on that spirit of encouragement and sponsorship. It provides financial support for students and/or new professionals to attend the association’s biennial conference, which was held this year in Alexandria, Virginia on February 18-20. Awardees were selected based on a statement of interest and experience in group work, and ways in which they sought to benefit professionally from attending the conference.

The recipients share some of their experiences and reflect upon their conference attendance.

Ramona Ioana Grad: In Romania, my country of origin, I worked as a mental health counselor for almost 7 years, in a private practice setting. I saw individual clients and also I worked with adults in a group format. When I started my journey in studying psychology I dreamed that one day I would be working with groups. This dream came true almost 5 years ago when I initiated “The Parent’s Academy” – a parenting group where caretakers learned how to understand, communicate and encourage their children. It was an extraordinary experience for me, and for them! I was fortunate enough that at GSU, I had the opportunity to continue to put my passion into practice by successfully setting-up and facilitating a weekly support group for my cohort members.

My goal for the 2016 ASGW conference was to continue to grow professionally, to continue to create connections. By attending the presentations, I learned from the best professionals in the field and improved my skills and knowledge about group work. I also had the opportunity to engage with the presenters’ work, ask questions and connect with them. Like any other profession, networking is very important in our field. This is the way we can invite each other to join collective research projects, and other various forms of group projects. In this way, we give our profession the chance to grow.

Besides my own growth as a doctoral student, I have in mind the growth of my current and future students. They often equate knowledge with information, but they are very different concepts. Information is static, existing in and of itself, while knowledge is created from information being brought out of isolation and into a relationship. Thus, I want to model for them what I believe in so strongly: knowledge is about relationships, and the more we share information with each other, the more knowledge we create, and the more we build strength together.

Priscilla Rose Selvaraj: The recent ASGW conference provided a small and intimate space for both professional and personal enrichment. I had the privilege to meet and interact with great contributors, pioneers, and students in the field of group work. Because of the Barbara Gazda Scholarship, I was able to make the trip to the conference. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to work as a volunteer in the ASGW products booth at the conference, and to meet and engage in professional discourse with group workers from various universities. Working with Dr. Janice DeLucia and the graduate students was fun. I personally was able to connect with other peer volunteers, which reminded me of my student life!

Some of the presentations that I was able to attend were on group work with adult survivors of sexual assault, coping skills groups for child survivors of sexual trauma, team teaching, group treatment for incest, and creative teaching strategies. They were resourceful, informative, and highly relevant for my professional group work. In particular, attending a session with Dr. Ed Jacobs provided an opportunity to interact with him directly. I was reminded of how true my scholarship application statement was: “being able to meet many great legends in the field of group work.” Both professionally and personally, I benefitted.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner times were particularly memorable as I was able to have interesting dialogues with other counselor educators and graduate students. Specifically, my time with the International Interest Committee was rewarding as a time where people from various nationalities and ethnicities came together around a table to discuss and share their own interests and ideas. Although it was my first involvement with this committee, it felt very comfortable and welcomed.

With the amount of material, knowledge and insights I gathered during the conference, I plan to develop not only my professional self but also my graduate students’ group work skills. As a counselor educator and current Group Counseling course instructor, I have already started incorporating my learning. In the future, I plan to engage actively in the association and in every possible way pursue effective group work.

Anthony Sica: The 2016 Association for Specialists in Group Work Conference was an enriching and invigorating experience that stands as a major highlight of my first year of counselor training. As a first year student, it took a bit of courage and faith to extend myself to a national conference, but I was rewarded personally and professionally with the ability to be in Alexandria, thanks to the Barbara Gazda Scholarship. I was able to explore my existing passion for group work while discovering new avenues within the counseling community.

My interest in group work stems from being a member of a vibrant and nurturing family culture. In times of need, the power of group always pulled my family through, be it informal family meetings...
or true, structured counseling sessions. Despite currently being in my first course in group counseling, the ASGW conference supercharged my understanding and comfort within many dynamic group settings. With aspirations toward community mental health and working in an urban setting, the conference opened my eyes to so much beyond my personal goals, while adding to my foundational knowledge going forward into internship and as a new professional in the field.

The learning sessions were energetic, thought-provoking, and refreshing. Reading The Journal for Specialists in Group Work has been wonderful, but to see the work of nationally recognized clinicians and teachers come alive was invaluable. Especially memorable were Sandra Terneus’ talk on characters in group work, Jennifer Randall’s presentation on the neuroscience of addiction, Sarah Springer’s elementary fitness and counseling group, and Sarah Skoog’s model for working with addiction related grief. The size of the conference, as well as the openness of everyone in ASGW, made for an intimate and engaging learning experience.

Along with sitting in on fabulous research, I was able to personally connect with other students from across the country. One of the most impactful moments of my conference experience was exchanging contact information with fellow graduate students, building my network and expanding my personal group beyond Temple University and Philadelphia. Fresh from my initiation, I am proudly a groupie and looking forward to the next ASGW Conference.

PEG CARROLL SCHOLARSHIP

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2016 Peg Carroll Scholarship, given annually to honor Marguerite “Peg” Carroll, former ASGW president and pioneer in group work. The scholarship supports a student in the study of group work and further understanding of group dynamics. The recipient this year is Verena Wieloch, a master’s degree student in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Appalachian State University. Verena was presented with her $2000 scholarship on February 19 at the Association for Specialists in Group Work biennial conference in Alexandria, VA.

Verena’s application statement highlighted her interest in the potential of task-oriented groups to further intergroup dialogue (communication across social, cultural, and power differences) in overcoming community conflict. When communities can unite over practical collaborative tasks (e.g., creating a piece of art, harvesting crops, building a house), entrenched conflicts may be addressed and overcome, leading to better mental health outcomes for individuals. Verena shares her appreciations and reflects upon the development of her interests in group work.

It is with deep gratitude that I write this letter of thanks to Dr. Peg Carroll and the Association for Specialist in Group Work (ASGW) for presenting me with one of this year’s scholarships. I am inspired by the many counselors and ASGW members who believe that humans heal in relationship and work to promote the many ways that individuals can build those relationships. I am humbled to be chosen as the recipient of the 2016 Peg Carroll award and I look forward to continuing my studies and making future contributions to the field.

In addition, I would like to thank all of my professors at Appalachian State University (ASU) and especially my mentors Dr. Geri Miller and Dr. Melia Snyder, for their unconditional support and guidance during my time at Appalachian State. I consider both of them to be ground-breakers in their respective fields and am grateful for their wisdom and experience. The value they both place on the power of group work profoundly influenced my professional approach to groups. I would also like to thank my many former colleagues at Four Circles Recovery Center in Horse Shoe, NC who inspired me through their dedication to hands-on, experiential, nature-based work with clients. It is through their wilderness-based clinical program that I began to understand how tangible group tasks and creativity are necessary parts of the healing process for individuals. My time there as a guide was foundational in beginning my career as a clinician. In the past year, while pursuing a graduate degree at ASU, I have continued to investigate embodied learning as the basis of healing from grief, recovering from addictions, and building unified coalitions of diverse perspectives.

In the remainder of my graduate career and post-graduation, I will continue to explore my belief in the necessity of tangible, shared work as the basis of strong group cohesion. Given this incredible opportunity to further my graduate studies, I will be able to seek additional professional training, develop and articulate my understanding of experiential, task-oriented group therapy and contribute to the common goal of cultivating access to group work. I am currently selecting one of many outstanding training options to support this interest, including community mediation through Restorative Justice and Intergroup Dialogue work at the community level.

The Awards Committee and ASGW membership congratulate all the recipients on their scholarship and involvement in ASGW activities!
DEAR ASGW COMMUNITY: This is my last column as the Group Worker newsletter Editor. I have valued my experiences engaging in this work and have learned more about myself than I have learned about group work. However, the skills that I have gained throughout this process will be used in my future research, teaching and service endeavors. For this last column, I have contemplated for some time what I would write about. I believe I could comment on any number of issues that I have been experiencing personally or professionally. For instance, I could discuss my impressions of the death of one of my favorite musicians, Prince, who actually was found dead today as I am writing this column. I could also share my excitement about new professional horizons full of mountain views and dry air. Or perhaps I could share with you some of my recent experiences with the school-based research that I have been grappling with that continues to suffer from finding a place amongst the evidenced-based literature. Despite all of these personally intriguing topics, I have decided to focus on the transitioning from my role as Editor of the Group Worker and allowing my faithful and committed colleague, Rachel Vannatta to take the reins. Below you’ll find an interview that I conducted with Rachel about her vision for this outlet and other interesting things that I learned about her along the way.

SAM: “Rachel, thank you for agreeing to partake in this interview to talk about your new role as the incoming Editor. First question, when did your affinity for group counseling develop or begin?”

RACHEL: “In my second semester of my master’s program. This is when I took my first group counseling class and I was absolutely dreading it. I had no real idea of what group counseling was, but I had somehow predetermined that I was not interested in it. Fast forward to the end of the semester, and I was totally drinking the group counseling Kool Aid! I learned so much that was applicable to my work as a counselor, but to other situations as well because let’s face it, we are in groups all the time. In addition, the process group portion of the class was an incredible experience. I was able to see so much of what we talked about with regard to group process unfold in our group, and I learned a great deal about myself. Much of this learning was a little bit painful, as growth experiences often are, but I think that was an important part as well. From that class on, I have considered myself a groupie.”

SAM: “A story that is all too familiar. Well then, what prompted you to get involved in ASGW?”

RACHEL: “I think it was your email to our listserv many years ago asking if anyone wanted to help with the newsletter. I knew that I was interested in groups, and I thought this would be a way to get to know the organization better and start connecting with some fellow group workers.”

SAM: “I realize that I may have never told you this, but it is my understanding that back then you were the only one who asked to help out. Lucky for me! This may be a bit redundant, but how did you go about taking on a more leadership roles (e.g., committee work, newsletter, substitute process observer) for the organization?”

RACHEL: “I am not exactly sure how to answer this one. I think the most direct answer is, I said “yes” even when I was quite sure I did not have the experience or knowledge to take on whatever the role was. I don’t think I have ever felt more nervous (and more like an imposter!) than I did that first day I substituted as a process observer, but it was a personally and professionally invaluable experience. So, I am incredibly thankful to other members of the organization who have extended these opportunities and been incredibly patient and supportive.

SAM: “Sometimes being in the right place at the right time and responding to the call does not hurt either! So my next question is, how do you anticipate your new role as the Group Worker Editor unfolding? And also, do you have any plans, goals, or vision for this vibrant outlet?”

RACHEL: “I am hopeful that we are able to continue to expand the readership of the Group Worker. Jonathan Orr has been doing some incredible work on the website, and I think there are opportunities to use the newsletter to bring up important topics in group leadership and the training of group leaders, and perhaps use the website to facilitate conversation about these topics among readers. I would also love to interview and/or highlight ASGW members periodically, as a way of helping us get to know one another.”
SAM: “Very interesting idea about interviewing or highlighting ASGW members that want to get more involved. Speaking of involvement, what would you say to those folks who believe ASGW is a closed system?”

RACHEL: “I would say come to a conference! I am, by no means, a conference expert, but I think the vibe at ASGW conference is amazing, and it’s a great place to meet other group workers. The conference has an intimate feel, where you see many of the same people throughout the weekend (and throughout the years). I would also say, based on my experience sitting in on the board meeting in the fall as substitute process observer, that the board members want ASGW to be inclusive and to effectively serve its members. Therefore, if there is something that can be done to help make the organization feel more open, please provide that feedback!”

SAM: “I concur that the ASGW Board is always asking for feedback, it seems to be very important to most if not all of the Board members I’ve worked with over the past 6 years. Wow, I have been doing this for a long time. That being said, where do you anticipate that this organization will be in 5 years, 10 years, and even 15 years? What about ACA for that matter?”

RACHEL: “That’s a tough question! But I’ll give it a shot. With regard to ASGW, President Elect Amy Nitza’s column and your column from the last newsletter touch on something that I think is really important, which is using what we know about group dynamics to enhance and facilitate group situations that are not necessarily counseling (or psychoed or therapy) group. In other words, I would like to see us as group workers and ASGW as a community to think about groups at an even broader level, and to tap into our knowledge in situations beyond organized counseling groups. Furthermore, Niloufer Merchant, our GC representative reports in this issue, that there is a lot going on with ACA right now. Licensure portability continues to be an important task for ACA. In the immediate future, I think how ACA decides to move forward with next year’s conference that is scheduled to be held in Nashville will be really important, especially given the current status of HB 1840.”

SAM: “I do think we could continue to expand and broaden the impact of group work and ACA has a tough battle ahead in the coming months! Next, are there any immediate opportunities that you are aware of for others to get involved in ASGW.”

RACHEL: “Hmmm, there are not any that I know of, do you know of any?”

SAM: “I believe there will be a number of writing opportunities that are being advertised, opportunities to create new DVDs, and a push to provide more training and involvement with the committee chairs. I suspect there will be more chances for you to explore these in the fall. Well, finally is there anything else you’d like to offer as you transition into your new role as the Editor of the Group Worker?”

RACHEL: “I’d like others to know that if you have practice ideas you want to write about, topics you would like to see addressed, or concerns to express, please do not hesitate to contact me at vannatta@gwmail.gwu.edu. I am really looking forward to editing The Group Worker and continuing to get to know the amazing folks in ASGW!”

SAM: “Well said. By the way, I’ve really enjoyed co-piloting a number of things over the years.”

RACHEL: “Me too! I hope that there is more to come, even though you are making a transition. Maybe some day, we will write that book idea that we tossed around a couple of times. I have also had some other ideas rattling around in my head, but my focus is on finishing up my dissertation right now. In fact, I wrote 10 pages last week! Once that’s done, let’s talk about other cool stuff. Best of luck in your new role as Associate Editor of The Journal for Specialists in Group Work!”

In closing, I am certain you can see that the ASGW strong tradition of mentoring continues, and the Group Worker is in very capable hands. It has been my pleasure to serve the profession in this capacity.
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<td>Past President Recognition</td>
<td>Jonathan J. Orr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellows</td>
<td>Lorraine J. Guth, Kelly A. McDonnell, Kathryn L. Norsworthy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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