

Dear EGPS Community,

Today is Workers Memorial Day. This work week ends on May 1, International Worker's Day. The current crisis magnifies the injustice and tragic failings of our society to protect the lives, safety and well-being of all members, including essential workers and those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic based on socioeconomic status and race.

GROUP journal's recent issue focuses on **Social Justice** (<https://egps.org/publications-group.php>). Editor **Jonah Schwartz**'s writes in his introduction:

As this issue goes to press, the world is being engulfed by a public health calamity known as COVID-19. While viruses are incapable of discriminating for or against their hosts based on their income, race, or ethnicity, it is already abundantly clear that the pandemic's catastrophic outcomes are being shaped by the powerful underlying reality of vast inequality... In this time of global pandemic, social justice is not merely good or right. It is, quite literally, a matter of life and death. (p. 81 - 82)

Guest editor **Christine Schmidt** calls upon us to "engage":

As social beings, our survival is tied to the survival of others. Our sense of justice guides our actions for dignity and human rights. Groups, whether small (a family) or large (an entire community), are entities where our social similarities and differences are expressed and where we learn to care for one other. We have the opportunity, if we choose to take it, to make space for individuals and groups marginalized and wounded by a plethora of hatreds...[to] work through collective trauma together. By making space for the voices of those who have been oppressed, we lay the foundation for reparative action. (p. 86)

EGPS members and group leaders, I am awed by how you have been stepping up and coming together within our community. Thanks to Past President **Patti Cox** for her enthusiastic acceptance of my invitation to host this evening's Community Forum.

In Solidarity,
Erica

Erica Gardner-Schuster
President, EGPS
egardnerphd@gmail.com



EGPS Community Events Week of April 27, 2020 & Beyond

Each event has their Zoom link in the same box as the event information or who to contact re registering for the event. Please be sure you are using the correct link for the event.

(remember if you're linking to Zoom from your computer to have your camera uncovered and your mic turned on. Headphones/earbuds are best!)

EGPS Community Forum

Tuesday, April 28th

8:45 - 9:45 PM

Hosted by EGPS Past-President, Patti L. Cox, PhD

This will be a place for our members to come together as a community to connect, reflect upon these uncertain, tough times, and support one another.

Click this link to join the group:

Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/986260725>

Meeting ID: 986 260 725

call-in: (929) 205-6099

For your and the group's benefit we strongly encourage you to join us by video.

(If you have trouble with the link, please check the EGPS listserv to see if updated information has been posted.)

Affinity Group for Self-identified Asian American Therapists and Trainees

Wednesday, April 29th

8:30 – 9:45 PM (EST)

Facilitated by Teresa Lee, MD, New York; Robert Hsiung, MD, Chicago

The Social Action Committee invites those who identify as Asian American therapists and trainees to discuss experiences of (including anxiety about) COVID-19 related racism and more generally to nurture/build the Asian American therapist community.

Please RSVP and include a few words about yourself and your interest in this group to asians@dr-bob.org by Tuesday 4/28 @ 12 PM EST.

EGPS Early Career Professional Members: Connecting and Coping in the Coronavirus Era

A Time-Limited Experiential Group

Thursday, April 30th

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Led by Erica Gardner-Schuster, PhD and Yair Kramer, PsyD

This is a time-limited weekly space for EGPS members who identify as "early career professionals" to come together in this time of pandemic. This closed, small group will provide members continuity to connect and explore what is arising for them, week by week.

We will meet **Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00 PM** on Zoom for 6 weeks: **4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4.**

Limited space available. Potential conflicts should be discussed with the co-leaders in advance. Video presence is required for these meetings.

To join or if you have questions, please email both:

Yair Kramer (yair.kramer@gmail.com) &

Erica Gardner-Schuster (egardnerphd@gmail.com) by Tuesday 4/28.

Zoom log-on information and the group agreement (to be discussed in the first meeting) - will be emailed to enrolled participants in advance of the meeting.

This group is open to current EGPS members only. If you would like to join EGPS visit: <https://egps.org/membership.php>. If you are challenged by economic hardship for your membership dues, please contact EGPS Administrator Jan Vadell (info@egps.org) to discuss options.

Writing for Troubled Times

Thursday, April 30th

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Hosted by Dominick Grundy, PhD

A group for EGPS members to share and explore personal writing in response to our troubled times. If you have not yet sent me something, feel free to do so at Grundyd4@earthlink.net. If you can only come for part of the time, no problem.

Click this link to join the group:

Click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98602710060>

Meeting ID: 986 0271 0060

call-in: (929) 205-6099

(If you have trouble with the link, please check the EGPS listserv to see if updated information has been posted.)

A Support & Connection Drop-In Hour: For Professionals with 10+ Years of Experience

Friday, May 1st

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Hosted by Judith Schaer, LCSW, CGP, FAGPA

At times like these, we need each other more not less. Please join us as we connect and create a zoom support community to cry and laugh together. To speak about our work, our families and ourselves. We Are

All There Wounded Healers.

Click this link to join the group:

Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/5077489515>

Meeting ID: 507 748 9515; Call-in: (646) 558-8656

(If you have trouble with the link, please check the EGPS listserv to see if updated information has been posted.)

Pictionary on Zoom!

Friday, May 1st

8:00 - 9:00 PM

Hosted by The Social Events & Networking Task Force

Didn't want to keep you in the dark too long, especially since our next get together will be about guessing, keeping you on your toes, and drawing as (il)legibly as you can. Join us for an evening of Pictionary on Zoom as we turn the unknown into fun!!!

Click this link to join the group:

Click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87519674529>

Meeting ID: 875 1967 4529

(If you have trouble with the link, please check the EGPS listserv to see if updated information has been posted.)

A Support & Connection Drop-In: For "Containing the Containers" - For those that work in hospitals, clinics, agencies and other organizational settings.

Saturday, May 2nd (& 9th)

5:15 - 6:30 PM

Co-facilitated by Claudia Arlo, LCSW-R, CGP, FAGPA, and Jonah Schwartz, LCSW. Carolyn Ehrlich, LCSW-R, CGP, will act as group consultant.

The Membership Committee of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society is sponsoring an online support group for people (clinicians, doctors, etc.) working in hospitals, clinics, agencies, and other organizational settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a drop-in group to help practitioners process their experiences in working and living during these challenging times.

This group is free and open to Members and Non- members of EGPS

Click this link to join the group:

Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/942128840>

Password: 2020; Meeting ID: 942-128-840

(If you have any difficulty joining the meeting please text Carolyn Ehrlich at: 646-335-5885 or Claudia Arlo at 917-575-0532)

Affinity Group for Black Identified Individuals - When They Get A Cold We Get Pneumonia

Sunday, May 3rd

5:00 - 6:30 PM

Hosted by Geraldine Howard, Rudy Lucas and Tony Patterson

The EGPS Board of Directors supports the Work Group 4 Racial Equity's second mounting of an Affinity Group Experience for Black Identified providers of mental health or spiritual services.

A peer group discussion will again be moderated by The Reverend (Geraldine Howard), the Reprobate (Rudy Lucas), and the Rebranded (Tony Patterson) a.k.a. The 3Rs

This is a support group free of charge for processing feelings and making connections during this time of vast uncertainty.

In the best of times it is hard for our voices to rise above the constant noise that has blemished our experience of being African Americans. We have always had others interpret what it is that we feel and need. We want to invite you to share in a safe space that is not under the white gaze. Let's come together in community to interpret how the events of the day are going down. Our experiences hold some things that are not shared by the dominant culture. Join us in "Our Share" space.

Click this link to join the group:

Click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3147350246>

Meeting ID: 314 735 0246

Call-in: (929) 436-2866

(If you have trouble with the link, please check the EGPS listserv to see if updated information has been posted.)

EGPS Spring Event

Bringing Groups to Life

Angelo Ciliberti, PsyD

Friday, May 15th

8:00 - 10:00 PM

To register for this event (there is a fee for this workshop):

click this link: [EGPS Website-Spring Event](#)

SAVE THE DATES

(see listserv announcements for more info):

Sundays 5/3 (& weekly) @ 2 pm:

Mindfulness Practice Sitting

Guided by **Adi Avivi**

Monday 5/18, 8:30 - 9:45 pm:

The Impact of Racialized Erasure: In Scholarly Work and Beyond

Hosted by the *Work Group for Racial Equity*

Friday & Saturday, 11/21 & 11/22:

EGPS Annual Conference: "In Times of Crisis: Using Groups for Recovery and Resilience"

****Please consider submitting a proposal by 5/18, see listserv announcements for further information. The EGPS conference will take place, either in Riverside Church or virtually, in accordance with public health expert recommendations. Thanks to Co-Chairs **Wayne Ayers** and **Kathleen Isaac** and the Conference Committee for their ongoing thoughtful preparation of this important yearly event for the EGPS community.****