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Social Group Work Today and Tomorrow: Moving From Theory to Advanced Training and Practice

Benjamin L Stempler, Marilyn Glass

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A comprehensive introduction to policy and planning approaches, methods, models, ways of thinking, and techniques, Social Group Work Today and Tomorrow is presented in a reader-friendly fashion for persons with no prior formal training in this area. The book teaches social workers, group counselors, educators and students, and practitioners how to apply group work theory to practice in an increasingly time-limited and managed-care-oriented society. Social Group Work Today and Tomorrow converts sophisticated policy and planning concepts and techniques into a form which even non-experts can understand, relate to, and apply in their own practice.Chapters reflect the work of the “giants” of social group work and also recognize contributions being made by the current generation of educators and practitioners. The contributors’chapters span many topical areas, among them:

- an interactionist theoretical perspective on creative uses of groups
- a moving look at the second decade of the AIDS epidemic
- creative use of dance with group work
- creative group work with ill elderly
- practice groups for students to prepare them for professional work with groups
- women’s issues and empowerment
- creative ways to use groups to educate among homosexual men on safe sexual practices
- the use of one-session groups to respond to job-related traumaChapters strike a strong note for social group work’s base in an interactionist perspective and for the overall efficacy and uniqueness of the method. Throughout the text, readers learn and explore group types and formats ranging from verbal to activity; from one session to beyond a year; from education to support; and from developmental to rehabilitation. Ethics, self-esteem, identity, and empowerment themes are prominent throughout this work’s pages.Social Group Work Today and Tomorrow is an accurate reflection of the quality, creativity, and energy that made up the Fourteenth Annual Symposium on Social Work With Groups. The creativity and innovativeness reflected in these pages offers new ideas and direction to all of social workers, counselors, and educators who choose the experience of working with groups.

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Gloria Lentz:

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