

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ALAN S. GURMAN**

Alan S. Gurman, one of the most distinguished and influential family psychologists of all time, died in Madison, Wisconsin on September 6, 2013. He was born in Winthrop, Massachusetts, May 26, 1945 to Ethel and Joseph Gurman and grew up in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Al attended the Boston Latin School and Boston University. He did his graduate training at Columbia University from 1967-1971. He began his career as a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in 1973, becoming Professor Emeritus in 2006 and continued his clinical work and teaching until 2010. Subsequently, Dr. Gurman was a Clinical Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Clinical Professor of Psychology at the Family Institute at Northwestern University, and a Visiting Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Gurman is credited with moving Couple and Family Therapy from a collection of approaches to a field of study. He pioneered bringing science to practice and in doing so, brought credibility to Couple and Family Therapy to those outside the field. He was first author on the first three major reviews of the research studying Couple and Family Therapy. Al also co-edited the first major work that summarized approaches to family therapy, *the Handbook of Family Therapy (1981)*; the definitive catalog of approaches to couple therapy, the *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy 4th edition (2008)*; and a much utilized volume summarizing approaches to psychotherapy, *Essential Psychotherapies 3rd edition (2013)*. In his writing, Al masterfully combined being inclusive and integrative, while being outspoken about directions he viewed as inaccurate. Indeed, his work on psychotherapy integration prodded our field to reach beyond our models and boundaries to embrace a broader and more inclusive psychotherapeutic stance. He was a brilliant theoretician as well as a talented clinician who influenced the lives of his psychotherapy trainees and the individuals, couples and families with whom he worked. A devoted educator, Dr. Gurman loved teaching and was generous in providing career opportunities for his students, mentees and junior colleagues.

The consummate editor, Dr. Gurman held many editorial posts including Editor of the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* for 10 years. He also authored or edited 19 books and authored or co-authored over 130 articles and book chapters. Rigorous and insightful in all of his academic contributions, his work reflected a remarkable clarity of mind. He was gifted at synthesizing large bodies of literature into precise, integrated reviews. Intelligent and open-minded, he had a thirst for knowledge and an unquenchable curiosity about all things related to family psychology and couple and family therapy. Al Gurman's contributions to the field of Psychology were numerous. He was a fellow of three divisions of the American Psychological Association (APA): Clinical, Psychotherapy, and Family and served on the Board of Directors of the Family Process Institute, the Society for Family Psychology, the American Family Therapy Academy, and as President of the Society for Psychotherapy Research. Al Gurman's service to the Department of Psychiatry, the School of Medicine and Public Health, and to the University of Wisconsin was substantial. He particularly appreciated his years on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Gurman was awarded many honors including: The Excellence in Internship Training Award for Distinguished Achievement in Teaching and Training from the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and

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Internship Centers, the Distinguished Contribution to Family Psychology Award from the American Psychological Association, and the Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Research Award from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. In August 2013, just weeks before his unexpected death, the Society for Family Psychology of the American Psychological Association honored Dr. Gurman with the Family Psychologist of the Year Award.

For Al Gurman, relationships were central. He was liked, loved, and respected by students, trainees, colleagues and friends who deeply appreciated Al's sense of humor and joie de vivre. Down to earth, genuine and trustworthy, he was passionate and compassionate in all his endeavors. Al loved soccer and held a National Diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and was a licensed coach through the United States Soccer Foundation. He cherished his hometown of Boston and his enduring high school friendships from Boston Latin, the Aardvarks. He was a lifelong follower of all of the Boston sports teams, but mostly the Celtics. He also enjoyed practicing yoga, watching *The Daily Show*, collecting purple pens, and gathering with friends for dinners, concerts and sing alongs. Al was an avid gardener and particularly loved nurturing his blue hydrangeas, the flowers of his beloved Cape Cod.

Most importantly, Al was a proud husband, father and grandfather. He loved his family and time together deeply. He is survived by his life partner and friend, Gerri, their two wonderful sons, Jesse and Ted, his daughter-in-law, Tory and his grandson and buddy, Benny.

Al Gurman was an eminent scholar, devoted teacher and mentor, trusted colleague and great friend, as well as a guiding light to many. Although greatly saddened with his passing, we at the University of Wisconsin and the international family psychology community have been enormously enriched and enlightened by the gifts and legacy of Alan S. Gurman.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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