

The Living Memories Project

2018 CONFERENCE



**New Trends and Clinical Interventions
in Grief and Bereavement Counseling**

**JOIN
US**

Friday, January 12, 2018 • 8:30am—1:45pm
Mid-Island Y JCC • Plainview, NY

**JASA Partners In Dignity, Mid-Island Y JCC and
Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services
are pleased to offer:**

**The 2nd Annual
Living Memories Project Conference:
New Trends and Clinical Interventions in Grief and
Bereavement Counseling on Long Island**

The conference will be held on
Friday, January 12, 2018 from 8:30AM-1:45PM
at the Mid-Island Y JCC
45 Manetto Hill Rd, Plainview, NY 11803



Meryl Ain embarked on The Living Memories Project after she lost both her father and mother within 18 months. Together with her husband Stewart and her brother Arthur M. Fischman, they set out to learn how others celebrated how their loved ones lived, rather than focusing on how they died.

The Living Memories Project details, through interviews, anecdotes, essays, poems and photographs, the many ways that both ordinary individuals and celebrities incorporate the presence of their departed loved ones into their lives. Some who have shared their stories describe instances when they strongly and viscerally felt their loved one's presence, while others have drawn upon rituals or created a tangible memorial to comfort themselves.

Who Should Attend?

The intended audience includes:

Social workers, psychologists, nurses, clergy, mental health practitioners, chaplains, creative arts therapists, educators, students and volunteers.

The main objective of the conference is for the participants to come away with new tools to provide professional, competent and compassionate care to those who are grieving or bereft.

**Social workers will receive
4 CEHs for this conference.
All sessions are approved.**

Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service is recognized by The NY State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers — #0066.



CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:30—9:00 AM

Registration and Breakfast with Exhibitors

9:00—9:30 AM

Welcome Remarks

- **Lori Hardoon**, LCSW—Director, JASA—Partners In Dignity
- **Alan Cohen**, Chief Health Program Officer, JASA
- **Rick Lewis**, Chief Executive Officer-Mid-Island Y JCC
- **Meryl Ain**, Ed. D.—Co-Author of *The Living Memories Project: Legacies That Last* and Author of *My Living Memories Project Journal*

9:30—11:30 AM

KEYNOTE

Dr. Kenneth Doka

**CHALLENGING THE PARADIGM:
NEW UNDERSTANDINGS OF GRIEF**

The presentation explores the most current theoretical perspectives on loss and grief, emphasizing six areas where understandings of grief have been challenged and developed. The presentation would be useful to a range of professionals who counsel the bereaved including psychologists, counselors, clergy, social workers, nurses and other health care workers, as well as educators, teachers and school-based personnel. In addition, it would benefit individuals who offer education on loss, grief, dying or death.

11:30 AM—12:00 PM

Break with Exhibitors

ABOUT DR. DOKA, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Kenneth J. Doka is a Professor of Gerontology at the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle and Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America. A prolific author, Dr. Doka's 27 books include *Grieving Beyond Gender: Understanding the Ways Men and Woman Mourn; Counseling Individuals with Life-Threatening Illness, Living with Grief: Ethical Dilemmas at the End of Life, Living with Grief: Alzheimer's Disease, Living with Grief: Coping with Public Tragedy and Disenfranchised Grief: New Directions, Challenges, and Strategies for Practice*. In addition to these books, he has published over 100 articles and book chapters. Dr. Doka is editor of both *Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying* and *Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement*.

Dr. Doka was elected President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling in 1993. In 1995, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement and served as chair from 1997-1999. The Association for Death Education and Counseling presented him with an Award for "Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Death Education" in 1998. In 2000, Scott and White presented him an award for "Outstanding Contributions to Thanatology and Hospice." His Alma Mater Concordia College presented him with their first "Distinguished Alumnus Award." In 2006, Dr. Doka was grandfathered in as a Mental Health Counselor under NY State's first licensure of counselors.

Dr. Doka has keynoted conferences throughout North America as well as Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. He participates in the annual Hospice Foundation of America Teleconference and has appeared on CNN and Nightline. In addition, he has served as a consultant to medical, nursing, funeral service and hospice organizations as well as businesses and educational and social service agencies. Dr. Doka is an ordained Lutheran minister.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

12:00–1:30 PM

Session 1: Crisis of Faith

A panel of distinguished religious leaders and an expert social worker will discuss how despite a crisis of faith, people can oftentimes draw strength from their beliefs in coping with a loss.

Panelists:

Imam Elhadj Barry is an imam and a teacher of the Quran and Islamic studies to both adults and children in the community. He is the full time imam at Harlem Hospital Center and the chaplain at Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital on Sundays.

Rabbi Rachmiel Rothberger currently serves as the Jewish community liaison and as a Jewish chaplain at Calvary Hospital and Calvary Hospice.

Meredith Lisagor has a M Div from Union Theological Seminary (UTS) with an emphasis in psychiatry & religion and is an ordained Interfaith minister and a board certified chaplain with more than 17 years of experience in geriatric and palliative care ministry.

Repa Dorje Odzer/Justin von Bujdoss is a Buddhist chaplain, the founder/director of the New York Tsurphu Goshir Dharma Center (goshir.org), and the North American Dharma Center of His Eminence Goshir Gyaltzab Rinpoche. He is currently staff chaplain for the New York City Department of Corrections.

Judith Pollack, LCSW is currently private practitioner and past Clinical Coordinator for Partners In Dignity.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

12:00–1:30 PM

● Session 2: Children's Grief

Grieving in the Context of Child Development and the Facilitation of Healthy Coping

One in five children will experience the death of someone that is close to them by the age of 18. This workshop is designed to provide practical information about age appropriate grief reactions.

Presenter:

Michelle Graff, LCSW is clinical director of the COPE Foundation, bereavement specialist and certified Resolve Through Sharing Coordinator at Good Shepard Hospice and palliative care social worker for Catholic Health Services.

● Session 3: From Traumatic Loss to Connection and Hope

This workshop will explore the impact of the traumatic and unexpected loss of a loved one. It will consider that the impact of such loss is physical, psychological, neurophysiological and interpersonal. The workshop will discuss the stages of recovery from a traumatic event and the personal process of grieving. It will also draw upon contemporary relational psychology to understand the grief process as a journey from loss to reconnection and from pain to resilience and hope.

Presenter:

Dr. Suzanne B. Phillips, Psy.D. is a licensed psychologist and psychoanalysis. She is an adjunct professor of clinical psychology at LIU Post, trauma/disaster chair for the Suffolk County Psychological Association and a clinician for The Soldiers Project Long Island.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

12:00–1:30 PM

Session 4: Grief—The First Year

This workshop will discuss how hospice bereavement departments follow up with family and friends during the first year after the death of a loved-one. Addressing Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross model of “Five Stages of Grief & Loss” as well as the Dr. J. William Worden model of “Four Tasks of Grief,” risk assessments through the lens of strengths and resilience. We will review the various types of bereavement interventions and how they are applied to maximize coping ability.

Presenters:

Walter Fendrich, LCSW-R is the bereavement coordinator of the Hospice of New York.

Marguerite Metzendorf, ACSW, LCSW-R, ACHP-SW, CT is the director of integrative medicine, bereavement and creative arts services, MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care.

Session 5: Bereavement: Why a Group?

Group Therapy and the Bereavement Process

Many who are bereaved seek clinical support during this difficult time in their lives. Grievers often question, “Why a group?” or “Am I right for a group?” Clinicians also struggle with these questions for their clients as well as how to best develop and facilitate groups. Participants in this workshop will learn about group therapy and its significant place in the bereavement process. This workshop will review the literature on group therapy as well as discuss types of bereavement groups, who is appropriate for groups and who is not, and how groups are organized and facilitated. Assessment tools and therapeutic techniques will be illustrated using the model of a spousal/partner loss bereavement group.

Presenter:

Gillian Rittmaster, LMSW is the coordinator of the Pathways to Care (PTC) program at Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS).

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

12:00–1:30 PM

Session 6: The Application of Music Therapy in Grief, Bereavement, and Loss for Patients and Families

This workshop will discuss the role of music therapists in the area of grief and loss. Across the U.S., music as a therapeutic tool has been utilized to help people heal from loss. Throughout time, it has been mentioned in literature from the Bible to Shakespeare to modernity. A therapist working in the area of grief and loss helps patients, family members and important loved ones to process feelings related to death and dying and uses a variety of music therapy methods in this work.

Presenter:

Pamela Carlton, MS, MT-BC is a board-certified clinical music therapist with a background in medical, psychiatric and hospice music therapy. Pam is an adjunct instructor of music therapy at Molloy College, teaching and supervising undergraduate and graduate music therapy students.

1:30–1:45 PM
Distribution of CEHs
and Collection of Evaluations

END OF
CONFERENCE

JASO

The Living Memories Project

2018 CONFERENCE

Registration Form

Please register quickly, as space is limited.

Professionals

\$40.00 in advance by January 10th
\$50.00 at the door
\$35.00 for 4 SW CEHs (*additional fee*)

Students

Full-time Students: \$15
(*Please bring your student ID*)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Concurrent Session Selections:

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____



Please make checks payable to: JASA

Mail registration form with payment to:
JASA Partners in Dignity
c/o Mid-Island Y JCC
45 Manetto Hill Road • Plainview, NY 11803

Or Register online at:

www.jasa.org/events/conferences

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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We thank all those who made
this conference possible,
including our partners:

CELEBRATING
JASAI 50 YEARS

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The Living Memories Project
Celebrating Lives Through Remembrance