

The New York Open Center
presents

Art of Dying

Conference 6

Spiritual, Scientific & Practical
Approaches to Living & Dying

OCTOBER 13 - 16, 2017
New York City

www.artofdying.org

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CE/CME Credits Available!

Introduction

The Art of Dying conference series speaks to the progressive awakening of our culture to a more conscious view of our own mortality. Death and dying are topics that are discussed with increasing openness and awareness that our view of death profoundly impacts our experience of life.

Art of Dying Conference 6

This conference will examine these matters from a holistic and inclusive perspective. We will engage with such essential questions as: How can we work more compassionately and intelligently with the dying? How can our own death and the death of those we love be faced with courage? Does consciousness survive death and, if so, what might we expect? How can we best prepare? How can death become much less frightening both for ourselves and for our loved ones? How can we develop more enlightened care for the dying even in our environment of technological medicine? How does a community support dying, and how can ritual around dying infuse community with meaning and connection?

This is the sixth in a series addressing these and other vital issues. It brings together important innovators in the field of death and dying, palliative, and hospice care. Many have a background in modern medicine, while others speak from a more traditional or spiritual perspective. All expand our understanding of how to work best and most compassionately with the dying and of our attunement to death itself, the deepest of all mysteries. We invite you to join a wide array of participants including hospice workers, nurses, doctors, therapists, bereavement counselors, social workers, and members of the general public to explore together a profound and heartfelt approach to the great matter of life and death.

Staff

Conference Director: Ralph White
Conference Producer: Tisha Ford
Conference Marketing: Leslie Hoffman
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Event Production: Carrie Wykoff
Finance: Nancy Rotger
Registration: Indira Persaud, Lisa Infantes



The Open Center is developing a Certificate in the Art of Dying: Integrative Thanatology approved by the Association of Death Education Counselors.

Art of Dying 6 Schedule

Friday, October 13

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINARS

At the New York Open Center, 22 E. 30th St., New York, NY

10:00AM-5:00PM

[Die Wise: A Manifesto for Sanity and Soul](#)

Stephen Jenkinson, MTS, MSW

[Working with the Dying: Doula Tools and Techniques](#)

Henry Fersko-Weiss, LCSW

[Creating Ritual to Embrace End of Life](#)

Megory Anderson, PhD

CONFERENCE

7:30-9:30PM | PLENARY ADDRESSES

Saturday, October 14

8:30-10:10AM | PLENARY SESSIONS

10:30AM-12:15PM | WORKSHOPS

12:15-1:45PM | Lunch

1:45-4:00PM | PLENARY SESSIONS

4:30-6:15PM | WORKSHOPS

6:15-8:15PM | Dinner

8:15-10:00PM | EVENING PERFORMANCE

[An Evening of Rumi's Poetry with Coleman Barks and Eugene Friesen](#)

Sunday, October 15

8:30-10:45AM | PLENARY SESSIONS

11:15AM-1:00PM | WORKSHOPS

1:00-2:30PM | Lunch

2:30-4:30PM | PANELS

4:45PM | CLOSING RITUAL

Monday, October 16

POST-CONFERENCE SEMINARS

At the New York Open Center, 22 E. 30th St., New York, NY

10:00AM-5:00PM

[Examining the Significance of End-of-Life Experiences for Living and Dying](#)

Peter Fenwick, MD

[Exploring the Bereavement Journey: An Experiential Workshop](#)

Simcha Raphael, PhD

[After Death Care and Preservation of the Body: A One-Day Practicum](#)

Olivia Bareham



New York
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The New York Open Center has been the city's leading center for holistic learning and world culture for the past 34 years.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINARS

10:00AM-5:00PM—at the New York Open Center, 22 E. 30th St., New York, NY

I Die Wise: A Manifesto for Sanity and Soul

Stephen Jenkinson, MTS, MSW

Dying well must become an obligation that both living and dying people owe to each other and to those to come. The “Die Wise” approach teaches the skills of dying, skills that have to be learned in the course of living deeply and well. It is for everyone who, come hell or high water, is not going to pull off eternity after all. Dying could be and must be the fullest expression and incarnation of what we’ve learned by living. It’s a moral obligation to die well.

II Working with the Dying: Doula Tools and Techniques

Henry Fersko-Weiss, LCSW

For the past 12 years, the End of Life (EOL) Doula Program has brought new approaches to working with the dying, seeking to return a sense of sacredness to the dying process while guiding the dying and their loved ones through the final days. This all-day seminar will use experiential exercises and practice sessions to teach some of the most useful tools being used by EOL doulas, including visualization techniques, active presence, legacy work, and rituals. These will be of great value to both professionals in the field and individuals working with family and friends as they approach the end of life.

III Creating Ritual to Embrace End of Life

Megory Anderson, PhD

Rituals can take us from one level of understanding to a deeper level of meaning. This hands-on seminar examines the nature and scope of ritual and brings it in an innovative and creative way to the end-of-life arena. Together we will create rituals for saying good-bye/I’m sorry/I love you as well as coping with: miscarriages, abortions, and stillbirths; death of a child, spouse, parent, friend, or admired celebrity; suicides; tragedies; and our own death. Bring your experiences with death, and we’ll weave all our stories into powerful, deeply resonant rituals.

PLENARY ADDRESSES

7:30-9:30PM



I The Tibetan Book of the Dead:

Gift of Original Life Science

Robert Thurman, PhD

Why is the rigorous exploration of death so rare in human societies? The Indians and Tibetans rather uniquely created the most detailed analysis yet seen, enabling them to map a variety of possible journeys that consciousness might take past the point of death. Though this approach was originally developed in Buddhist India, Tibet made both the science of death and the art of dying general knowledge in their society, and Tibetan Buddhism can to some extent be seen as a scientific tradition because it presents its findings as hypotheses that we can study and use as guidelines for our own experiences, not as religious dogmas.

II The Needs of the Dying

David Kessler

Death is sometimes the result of violence, sometimes an act of nature, and sometimes the end of a long disease. Understanding the needs of the dying is foundational to giving compassionate assistance to those facing death. Best-selling author David Kessler, who has spent 30+ years working with thousands of people on the edge of death, will: speak to the goal of restoring power to the dying and their loved ones, provide up-to-date information on how to develop communication strategies, and offer insights on how anticipatory grief and cultural differences shape end-of-life experiences.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

PLENARY SESSIONS

8:30-10:10AM

I **Sacred Dying: Space, Souls, and Transitions**

Megory Anderson, PhD

To be able to die at home, pain free, and with loved ones nearby is what people have always wanted. The spiritual and emotional transitions that take place beside a dying person are as profound as the birth of a child, yet in our society the days before death tend to be focused on respiration, and medication (...and billable services). The Sacred Dying philosophy, developed through the experience of guiding hundreds of people through the dying process says that it's time for us to reclaim the sacred in relation to death—through our cultural and faith traditions and through individual rituals and presence.



II **The Tangled Garden of Wisdom and Grief**

Stephen Jenkinson, MTS, MSW

A good death is everyone's right. Dying is the fulfillment, not the end, of life. Our culture tends to view grief as an affliction, a trauma that requires coping and management and five stages and/or twelve steps to get over, but what if grief is the natural order of things, the way we have to love everything that is impermanent? We are far too addicted to security, comfort, and managing uncertainty; we need to learn to honor, teach, and live grief as a skill, as vital to our personal, community, and spiritual life as the skill of loving.

WORKSHOPS

10:30AM-12:15PM

I **The Tibetan Book of the Dead, Part 1**

Robert Thurman, PhD

What is the Tibetan science of death, and how can it assist us in developing a high level of skill and elegance in the "art of dying"? In this workshop we'll explore the Tibetan approach to death and how it relates to life, since life cannot be understood without understanding death.

II **Mapping the Journey: Reenvisioning Decisions about Care at the End of Life**

Leslie Blackhall, MD

In this workshop we will examine: the history of legal and ethical issues in withholding and withdrawing life support; the ways this history frames and distorts our thinking about end-of-life care; the barriers to changing the ways we view the goals of care and the trajectories of life-limiting illnesses; clinical decision-making protocols; and the implications of the illness-trajectory model for discussing choices at the end of life.

III **Hospice Care for Our Animal Companions**

Ella Bittel, DVM

Those sharing their lives with an animal companion dread the day they will face a seemingly inevitable decision: to euthanize or not? Euthanasia should be reserved for exceptional situations rather than being the standard in animal end-of-life care. In this session we'll explore alternatives to euthanasia and the importance of contemplating these end-of-life questions well ahead of time to be prepared to help our companion animals have as loving a transition as possible.



IV Exploring the Energetics of Death and Grief

Jeanne Denney

Many spiritual traditions describe energies that pulse through and around our body in life, but what happens to these subtle bodies through death and after? Could somatic and energetic views of dying help us gain greater perspective on consciousness and the life process? In this workshop led by a highly experienced somatic psychotherapist we'll explore a new view of human development that sees body, energy, and consciousness engaged in ongoing transformation, a process that continues during dying and beyond. We'll also look at why presence can have a powerful effect on everyone near death and the somatic effects of grief.

V End-of-Life Coaching for Caregivers

Janet Booth, RN

By integrating a coaching model into our end-of-life work, i.e., using authentic presence, deep listening, skillful questioning, reflective practices, and a focus on well-being, we can dramatically enhance the quality of our interactions with our patients, helping them illuminate the narrative arc of their lives, access inner resources of wisdom, and clarify what matters most to them. This approach helps those living with serious illness make decisions about care and treatments within the values and meaning of their life story and allows overwhelmed caregivers to cultivate self-care and resilience and find deeper purpose in their work.

LUNCH 12:15-1:45PM

PLENARY SESSIONS

1:45-4:00PM

I Facing Death, Finding Your Life

Henry Fersko-Weiss, LCSW

As one approaches death, it is quite natural to question the meaning of life, but too often our fear of death and dying chases these questions away. When we can face death, we can unlock the key to finding meaning in our lives and living fully up to our last breath. Going a step further and actually embracing the truth of impermanence at any point in our lives has the capacity to help us stay present in the moment, live with purpose, and achieve lasting happiness. It is a paradox that accepting our mortality frees us to find our life in the truest sense.

II Cultivating Moral Resilience at the End of Life

Cynda Rushton PhD, RN, FAAN

Ethical issues at the end of life can result in confusion, distress, and depletion, but cultivating moral resilience, i.e., the capacity to preserve or restore integrity in response to moral adversity, can offer us a beacon to guide us through the thorny, complex challenges and ethical conundrums that often arise as our life trajectory winds down. Cynda Rushton examines the contours of moral resilience and offers us practical suggestions for nurturing and strengthening it.

III End-of-Life Experiences and Their Contributions to an Understanding of Life and Consciousness

Peter Fenwick, MD

In this session Peter Fenwick will explore end-of-life experiences—the mental states of the dying—which are at last becoming recognized as central to our understanding of death and its significance to life. Often, there are stages in the dying process that include such phenomena as premonitions, deathbed visions, glimpses of a new, luminous realm with spiritual value, and the scientific conundrum of “terminal lucidity,” the well-witnessed fact that many with dementia exhibit a clear mental state and family recognition just before they die.

WORKSHOPS

4:30–6:15PM

I Creating the Conditions for Compassion and Resilience at the Bedside

Cynda Rushton, PhD, RN, FAAN

Being present, skillful, and wise when caring for dying people requires attention to cultivating the conditions for compassion and resilience to arise. This experiential session will explore the importance of self-awareness, mental and emotional stability, insight, inquiry, and nonattachment to outcome in caring for the dying. We will explore the conditions and practices that can enable us to strengthen our resilience and boost our capacity for compassionate action.

II The Afterlife Journey of the Soul in Jewish Mysticism: Implications for Hospice and Bereavement

Simcha Raphael, PhD

In this workshop, we'll investigate Judaism's teachings on life after death, particularly within the mystical traditions of Kabbalah and Hasidism, and we'll endeavor to translate these philosophical teachings on immortality and postmortem survival into practical, active directives we can use in our end-of-life work. Through a synthesis of Jewish mysticism and transpersonal psychology, we will explore functional guidelines for the application of these teachings to counseling work with the dying and bereaved and their families.

III The Inspired Funeral

Amy Cunningham

Planning for our own death, and getting acquainted with both traditional and new end-of-life rituals, is a spiritual practice that can enable us to face our own mortality with courage and express our most deeply held values. In this workshop we'll explore the array of new trends and options in today's funeral experience, including how to plan a reasonably priced, back-to-basics funeral, the green burial movement, new thinking on the burial shroud, cremation pros and cons, biodegradable caskets, blended-faith/alternative ceremonies, and more.



IV Death Midwifery: An Investigation into the Role of the Death Midwife in Today's Society

Olivia Bareham

When a birth is imminent, expectant mothers want to know what to expect and want to feel safe. When death is imminent, dying people want the same, and the presence of someone knowledgeable who can help allay their fears, who can guide them and their families through the transition, can be of immense value. In this workshop we'll look at the death midwifery profession, covering such topics as: the role of a death midwife and how to become one; transitions from life support in the ICU to a death-support context; the use of rituals at the deathbed; helping families through infant death; and how to help create conditions for a good death.

V Tibetan Book of the Dead, Part 2

Robert Thurman, PhD

In this theoretical and experiential session that will include both exposition and contemplative exercises, we will delve further into Tibetan approaches to death, focusing especially on how to develop the capacity to die well, consciously, without fear.

DINNER 6:15–8:15PM

EVENING PERFORMANCE

8:15–10:00PM



An Evening of Rumi's Poetry with Coleman Barks and Eugene Friesen

"Our death is our wedding with eternity." Rumi

When Rumi died on Dec. 17, 1273, people from all religions—Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus, and Buddhists, all came to his funeral. Asked why they were there, they said, "He deepens us wherever we

are." Rumi is perhaps the greatest spiritual poet the world has ever known because he blurs divisions. All his work emphasizes that what separates us is far less important than what draws us together. Tonight, with poetry and music, we celebrate the wisdom of the great Sufi teacher.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

PLENARY SESSIONS

8:30–10:45AM

I Paranormal Experiences at the End of Life and After a Death

Dr. Kenneth J. Doka, PhD

This presentation will explore the paranormal phenomena not infrequently experienced during the dying process as well as by the newly bereaved, including "terminal lucidity," near-death experiences, and extraordinary grief-related occurrences, such as feeling the tangible presence of a recently deceased loved one. Kenneth Doka will discuss the counseling implications of these phenomena and how to honor and integrate such experiences while working with the dying and those grieving after a death.

II The Shaman's View of Death

Alberto Villoldo, PhD

According to some Andean and Himalayan shamanic traditions, after death the physical body goes back to the earth, but our essence or soul returns to the stars. These wisdom-keepers of old drew maps to guide the soul in its journey beyond death, describing the stages along the way and the challenges and opportunities the soul faced at each stage. In this session, we will explore the great value these maps created by these far-seeing cartographers of infinity, still hold for us today.

III Psilocybin and Mystical Experience Research: Implications for End-of-life Distress and Thanatology

Anthony P. Bossis, PhD, and Stephen Ross, MD

This presentation will review the results of the NYU Psilocybin Cancer Anxiety Project, an FDA-approved clinical trial that was published in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology* in December 2016. This trial investigated whether a mystical experience induced by psilocybin (a synthetic analog of a hallucinogenic compound found in a few species of mushrooms) might help terminally ill individuals reduce their psychological and existential distress, cultivate meaning, enhance their sense of spiritual well-being, and create greater acceptance of the dying process.

WORKSHOPS

11:45AM-1:00PM

I Disenfranchised Grief in the 21st Century: New Problems, New Strategies

Kenneth J. Doka, PhD

Disenfranchised grief is grief that is not openly acknowledged, socially sanctioned, or publicly mourned. Disenfranchised grief and complications arising from it occur when a relationship is not recognized, a loss is not acknowledged, or a griever is not recognized. It can also occur when transplanted people find themselves in a culture that has a different grieving style than the one they were raised in. We will discuss effective intervention strategies and the creation of empathic rituals that can help alleviate this unaddressed need.

II How Do We Want to Die?

Peter Fenwick, MD

This session will provide a safe, supportive space in which conference participants who so desire can come tell their own stories about end-of-life experiences they have witnessed and discuss what they have learned from them in order to help others acknowledge the reality of impermanence and prepare for death.

III Dying Consciously: Maintaining Consciousness in the Journey of Death and Beyond

Alberto Villoldo, PhD

What happens after we take our last breath? Is there a part of us that continues, and if so, where do we go? In this workshop, we will explore how various shamanic traditions view the journey beyond death. We will begin to learn techniques used for centuries by shamans to navigate the dream-like realms one encounters immediately after death and reach the blissful domains of wisdom.

IV Bringing Death into Life—Bringing Life into Death

Bastiaan Baan

Maintaining some sort of relationship with the dead was a key component of nearly all traditional human cultures, and guidelines for the soul's journey after death were sometimes described in various "Books of the Dead." In this workshop we'll investigate the teachings of the renowned, highly influential Austrian mystic and philosopher Rudolf Steiner regarding the path of the soul after death and how the living can maintain a spiritually healthy relationship with the departed.

V Lazarus and the Mustard Seed: Miracles, Meaning, and the Cycle of Life

Leslie Blackhall, MD

This workshop will explore the spiritual, medical, and cultural meanings of mortality by comparing two very different perspectives on death: Tibetan Buddhism's and Western biomedicine's. How does the biomedical understanding of the nature of mortality, which emphasizes scientific progress, medical "miracles," and the "war" on cancer (and other serious illnesses), impact our care of patients and the way we lead our lives? And how might Tibetan mindfulness practices and death-preparation meditations contribute to helping us transform our relationship with death?



LUNCH 1:00-2:30PM

PANELS

2:30-4:30PM

I The Future of End-of-Life Care

Leslie Blackhall, MD, Simcha Raphael, PhD, Peter Fenwick, MD, Anthony P. Bossis, PhD

What is the future of end-of-life Care? Where is it going, where does it need to go, and how can we bring greater sensitivity and awareness to the many crucial issues that we must all face around dying?

II Caring for Our Dead: Grief, Remembrance, and Sacred Ritual

Olivia Bareham, Amy Cunningham, Megory Anderson, Jeanne Denney

How do we care for our dead in a way that is compassionate, dignified, and sacred? What is the role of grief in creating a good death? What do our ancestors tell us about death and the journey of the soul? How do rituals help us support the dying and connect with the dead?

CLOSING RITUAL

4:45PM

LIVE VIDEO WEBCAST OCTOBER 13-16!

CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE WORKSHOP?

Don't miss out! Sign up for the live webcast and enjoy selected conference presentations from the comfort of your home.

Webcast will be streamed at the times outlined on the Art of Dying website, Eastern Time.

To learn more about the video webcast, which workshops/seminars, etc., will be live streamed and to register, go to Artofdying.org

The Art of Dying Conference 6 is made possible through generous donations from the **Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation** and the **Friedman Family Foundation** and our event partners:



ideas, expertise and resources
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creating end of life narratives, long before the end



MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

POST-CONFERENCE SEMINARS

10:00AM-5:00PM—at the New York Open Center, 22 E. 30th St., New York, NY

I Examining the Significance of End-of-Life Experiences for Living and Dying

Pete Fenwick, MD

This full-day seminar will address some of the wider, under-discussed questions associated with end-of-life experiences. There are quite a few reports of unusual phenomena surrounding the moment of death, including lights emanating from a dying body and/or shapes seen leaving it, and recently bereaved people often report receiving messages from the recently departed. How do we incorporate these experiences into our understanding of death, and how might the existence of such phenomena impact our decisions about euthanasia or terminal sedation? We need to “uncover” death again, so that it is no longer a taboo subject in our culture and so we can examine all of its aspects.

II Exploring the Bereavement Journey: An Experiential Workshop

Simcha Raphael, PhD

To work with the dying and bereaved, it really helps if we have investigated our own reactions and responses to death. This seminar for those working with the dying and bereaved and those in mourning will focus on the emotional, psychological, and spiritual reactions that emerge in the encounter with death. We'll explore our personal grief history, cultural and familial attitudes toward death, how life experience can enhance or hinder our capacity to open our hearts to the dying and bereaved, and how to look at death as a teacher that gives us the opportunity for psycho-spiritual development.

III After Death Care and Preservation of the Body: A One-Day Practicum

Olivia Bareham

The few days following death are a window of opportunity for great healing, but once a funeral home steps in, this window closes, and families often wish they had had a little more time. This hands-on workshop for end-of-life caregivers and those wishing to have a home funeral for a loved-one demonstrates the simple steps anyone can take to honor and care for a loved-one's body. Practical demonstrations will include how to: bathe, dress, and anoint the body, create an honor bed and shroud, use dry-ice preservation, move and casket the body, prepare a sacred space for those sitting in vigil, care for a body in an ICU setting or after autopsy, and more.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Megory Anderson, PhD, founder of the Sacred Dying Foundation, an organization designed to bring sacredness to the end-of-life experience, is a theologian, educator, liturgist, and author of the books *Sacred Dying: Creating Rituals for Embracing the End of Life* and *Attending the Dying*.



Bastiaan Baan, Director of the seminary of The Christian Community in North America and a priest in that denomination (a movement for religious renewal born out of anthroposophy), was formerly a Waldorf teacher and is the author of several books, including: *The Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosencreutz*, *Ways into Christian Meditation*, and *Old and New Mysteries*.



Olivia Bareham, a certified death midwife and home funeral guide and celebrant, holds degrees in Education, Natural Theology, and Sacred Healing and is founder of Sacred Crossings, The Institute for Conscious Dying, and Family-Directed Funerals. Olivia also facilitates The Art of Death Midwifery training program, now offered to students worldwide.
<http://sacredcrossings.com>



Coleman Barks has taught poetry and creative writing at the University of Georgia for thirty years. One of the most significant contributors to the growing awareness of Rumi in the West, he is the author of numerous Rumi translations and has been a student of Sufism since 1977.



Ella Bittel, DVM, is a veterinarian who, for over 20 years, has specialized in holistic modalities including veterinary acupuncture and chiropractic and energy medicine techniques. She is on the advisory board of the Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets and a member of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association.



Leslie Blackhall, MD, is Associate Professor of Medicine and Medical Humanities at the University Of Virginia School of Medicine and Director of its Palliative Care Services.



Janet Booth, RN, a longtime hospice and palliative care nurse now working as an Integrative nurse coach around the practice of well-being in aging, illness, and dying, serves as an associate faculty member for the International Nurse Coach Association. The courses she teaches include an End-of Life Nurse Coaching program in collaboration with the New York Open Center.



Anthony P. Bossis, PhD, a clinical psychologist and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine who also maintains a private psychotherapy practice in NYC, was Director of Palliative Care Research, Co-Principal Investigator, and a session guide for the now-famous NYU Psilocybin Cancer Anxiety Study and is Project Director for the NYU Psilocybin Religious Leaders Study.



Amy Cunningham, a progressive funeral director and owner of Fitting Tribute Funeral Services, specializes in green burials in cemeteries certified by the Green Burial Council, simple burials within the NYC metropolitan area, home funerals, and cremation services at Green-Wood Cemetery's crematory chapels. She maintains a lively blog on funeral planning called TheInspiredFuneral.com.



Jeanne Denney, a somatic psychotherapist, hospice worker, and educator who works to help people embrace a life that includes death, has spent years both at bedsides and in classrooms while contributing pioneering ideas to the fields of Somatic Psychology and Thanatology.



Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, MDiv, a Professor of Gerontology at the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle and Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America, is an expert on grief and grieving and lectures worldwide on the topic. A prolific author and editor, he serves as editor of HFA's *Living with Grief®* book series, its *Journeys* newsletter, and numerous other books and publications.



Peter Fenwick, MD, a neuropsychiatrist known for his studies of end-of-life phenomena and epilepsy, is a senior lecturer at King's College London, a consultant at the Institute of Psychiatry, and the co-author (with his wife, Elizabeth) of *The Art of Dying*, which describes his research into the reported experiences of the dying and their caregivers around the time of death in hospices in the U.K. and Holland.



Henry Fersko-Weiss, LCSW, President of the International End of Life Doula Association (INEDLA), has been conducting end-of-life doula trainings at the New York Open Center for the last eight years and is a faculty member of the Art of Dying Institute. He has worked in hospices, led many bereavement groups, and draws from the experience of his own losses and a history of using guided visualization, meditation, and journaling in his work, which has been featured prominently in *The New York Times*. www.inelda.org.



Eugene Friesen, active internationally as a concert artist, composer, conductor, and teacher, won a Grammy Award for his contribution to two Paul Winter Consort albums and is an artist in residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and a faculty member of Berklee College of Music.



Stephen Jenkinson, MTS, MSW, a "spiritual activist," author, ceremonialist, and farmer with degrees from Harvard (Theology) and the University of Toronto (Social Work), is a leading figure in transforming approaches to grief and dying in North America. He teaches internationally and is the creator and principal instructor of the Orphan Wisdom School, founded in 2010.



David Kessler is the author of five best-selling books including two, *On Grief and Grieving* and *Life Lessons*, co-authored with the late world-renowned Thanatology pioneer Elisabeth Kübler-Ross who anointed Kessler as the heir to her work. His first book, *The Needs of the Dying*, received praise from Mother Teresa. www.grief.com.



Simcha Raphael, PhD, Founding Director of the DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training, was ordained as a Rabbinic Pastor by the late, renowned Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. A psychotherapist and spiritual director in Philadelphia, he has written extensively on death and the afterlife and is author of the groundbreaking *Jewish Views of the Afterlife*. www.daatinstitute.net.



Stephen Ross, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at New York University (NYU), Principal Investigator of the NYU Psilocybin Cancer Project, and Director of the NYU Psychedelic Research Group, is also Director of the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse at Bellevue Hospital and Director of Addiction Psychiatry at NYU Tisch Hospital.



Cynda Rushton, PhD, RN, FAAN, the Anne and George L. Bunting Professor of Clinical Ethics and Professor of Nursing and Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University Berman Institute of Bioethics and School of Nursing, is Co-Chair of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Ethics Committee and Consultation Service and has also served as a teacher and collaborator in Upaya's Being With Dying Professional Training program and as core faculty in G.R.A.C.E. along with Roshi Joan Halifax since 2001.



Robert Thurman, PhD, a Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies in the Department of Religion at Columbia University, President of Tibet House U.S., and President of the American Institute of Buddhist Studies, which is dedicated to the publication of translations of important Tibetan artistic and scientific treatises, is the author of many books on Tibet, Buddhism, art, politics, and culture, and is a Vajracharya (Vajrayana Buddhist priest) in HH the Dalai Lama's ecumenical order of Tibetan Buddhism.



Alberto Villoldo PhD, a medical anthropologist who has studied the shamanic healing practices of the Amazon and Andes for more than 25 years, founded the Four Winds Society, which offers extensive education in the philosophy and practice of energy medicine in 1984. He also directs the Center for Energy Medicine in Chile, where he investigates and practices the "neuroscience of enlightenment."

Art of Dying

MAIN CONFERENCE PRICING	GENERAL PUBLIC	SENIORS AND STUDENTS	SALE END DATE
Early Bird Price	\$450	\$405	August 11
General Admission Price	\$495	\$445	September 8
Final Admission Price	\$545	\$490	October 13

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINARS (OCTOBER 13)		POST-CONFERENCE SEMINARS (OCTOBER 16)	
Stephen Jenkinson	Admission: \$195	Simcha Raphael	Admission: \$150
Megory Anderson	Admission: \$150	Olivia Bareham	Admission: \$150
Henry Fersko-Weiss, LCSW	Admission: \$150	Peter Fenwick	Admission: \$150

Note: Pre- and Post-Conference Seminars (October 13 and 16) can only be purchased with the Main Conference Tickets
Pre- and Post-Conference space is limited. EARLY REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

REGISTRATION FORM

New York Open Center **22 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016** **www.opencenter.org**
Phone: 212-219-2527 ext. 2 **FAX: 212-226-4056** **Email: registration@opencenter.org**

Date _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Profession _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

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MAIN CONFERENCE

PLEASE CIRCLE THE WORKSHOPS/PANEL YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND FOR EACH OF THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Note: Plenary Sessions are attended by **ALL REGISTRANTS**

SATURDAY MORNING AND AFTERNOON WORKSHOP OPTIONS	SUNDAY MORNING WORKSHOP AND AFTERNOON PANEL OPTIONS
SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 10:30AM-1:00PM Robert A.F. Thurman, PhD Leslie Blackhall, MD Ella Bittel, DVM Jeanne Denney Janet Booth, RN	SUNDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 11:15AM – 1:00PM Kenneth J. Doka, PhD Peter Fenwick, M.D. Alberto Vil-loldo, PhD Bastiaan Baan Leslie Blackhall, MD
SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS 4:30–6:15PM Robert A.F. Thurman, PhD Cynda Rushton, PhD, RN, FAAN Simcha Raphael, PhD Amy Cunningham Olivia Bareham	SUNDAY EVENING PANEL OPTIONS 2:30–4:30PM Caring for our Dead: Grief, Remembrance, and Sacred Rituals The Future of End-of-Life Care

PRE- AND POST-CONFERENCE SEMINARS

PLEASE SPECIFY THE SEMINAR OPTIONS OF YOUR CHOICE

NOTE: THESE ARE ALL-DAY EVENTS

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINARS (OCTOBER 13 @ NYOC)	POST-CONFERENCE SEMINARS (OCTOBER 16 @ NYOC)
Die Wise: Manifesto for Sanity and Soul Stephen Jenkinson, MTS, MSW	Examining the Significance of End-of-Life Experiences for Living and Dying Peter Fenwick, MD
Working with the Dying: Doula Tools and Techniques Henry Fersko-Weiss, LCSW	Exploring the Bereavement Journey: An Experiential Workshop Simcha Raphael, PhD
Creating Ritual to Embrace End of Life Megory Anderson, PhD	After Death Care and Preservation of the Body: A One Day Practicum Olivia Bareham

GENERAL INFORMATION

To register online for the Conference, and for the Pre- and Post-Conference seminars, or any combination of these, please go to www.artofdying.org. You may also complete the form in this brochure and mail it to New York Open Center, 22 E. 30th Street, NY, NY 10016. To speak with an Open Center representative, you may also call 212-219-2527 ext. 2.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND LOCATIONS

The conference will be held at the New Yorker Hotel, 481 Eighth Avenue (at 34th Street). Attendees are offered a special rate ranging from \$269 Single Rate to \$319 Quad Rate. Hotel reservations must be made no later than September 15. The New Yorker is not only an historic hotel nestled in Midtown Manhattan surrounded by sights and sounds that are unmistakably New York, but it also provides the greatest convenience for conference participants. Call 800-764-4680 to make your reservations. Please identify yourself as a conference participant when making your reservations.

PRE- AND POST-CONFERENCE SEMINARS

Pre- and Post-Conference seminars on October 13 and October 16 will be held at the New York Open Center and are available to conference participants only. Non-conference participants can place their name on a waiting list by calling 212-219-2527 ext. 2. If space allows their participation, they will be notified the week of September 25.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOP PREFERENCES

You must indicate when you register online, by phone, or mail your preferences for each of the Saturday and Sunday workshop sessions. Spaces will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

LUNCH

There will be a complimentary lunch and networking event on Saturday. We encourage participants to attend. Vegetarian options are available. Sunday will be a brown-bag day. We are also planning some additional programming during lunch on Sunday as well as book signings and some other possible activities throughout weekend. Become part of our official Art of Dying FB page and stay updated on all of the conference developments.

SPECIAL RATE

We are offering a special rate starting at \$405 for Seniors and Students. Please contact registration@opencenter.org and send proof of employment in order to complete your registration.

SCHOLARSHIPS/WORK STUDY

A limited number of scholarships are available to those in financial need. There are also a number of work-study opportunities. Please contact artofdying@opencenter.org, to request an application form.

CE/CME

This conference is approved for CE/CME credit for physicians, psychologists, social workers and other healthcare professionals through joint providership with the Institute for the Advancement of Human Behavior. Please visit www.opencenter.org for additional information. CE/CME credit is available for purchase for \$50.

CANCELLATION POLICY

September 29, 2017, is the final date by which you are eligible to receive a refund for registration cancellations. A \$65 processing fee will apply to all cancellations and notice must be sent to registration@opencenter.org.

BOOKSTORE

A complete bookstore with presenters' books and a wide variety of related items will be on the premises. Check your packet schedule for on-site book signings.

RECORDING

Recordings of the conference will be available. Please contact info@opencenter.org.

Art of Dying

Conference 6

Spiritual, Scientific and
Practical Approaches
to Living & Dying

OCTOBER 13-16, 2017

New York City

CAN'T MAKE IT ONSITE TO THE WORKSHOP?

Join us October 13-16 for the Live Webcast!

See page 10 and visit www.artofdying.org for more info

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