



NEWS RELEASE

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First East Bay Conference on Spirituality and End- of- Life Care For Clergy and Other Caring Professionals

(DUBLIN, CA) Hope Hospice, in partnership with the Hospice Foundation of America, will host a special conference for faith leaders, social workers, therapists, and other caring professionals. The conference titled, "Spirituality and End of Life Care", is designed for professionals who are involved in helping families and individuals facing life limiting illnesses. The learning objectives of the seminar include defining spirituality and how it is different from religion, understating ways that spiritual issues and coping may emerge throughout an illness and how to assess the ways that spirituality can complicate and facilitate end-of-life care and grief. The conference is open to professionals at no fee as a community service of Hope Hospice. Reservation deadline is Thursday, May 19, 2011. Online registration is available at www.HopeHospice.com or by calling (925) 829-8770.

The pre-recorded session features a distinguished group of panelists including Gary Fink, DMin, a pastoral counselor who specializes in bereavement, loss, and life-limiting illness who serves as chaplain at Montgomery Hospice in Rockville Maryland; and Carolyn Jacobs, PhD, MSA, Director of the Contemplative Clinical Practice Program at Smith College. They will be joined by Kenneth Doka, PhD, Professor of Gerontology at the Graduate School of the College of New Rochelle; Betty Kramer, PhD, a professor of social work at the University of Wisconsin; and others.

The pre-recorded conference will be followed by a live panel of local clergy and spiritual care professionals working in the San Francisco Bay Area with a primary focus on the spiritual aspects of grief and loss. Father Padraig Greene is the parochial administrator at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Ordained for 35 years, Fr. Greene has worked in education, retreat ministry, family ministry, and pastoral ministry. For the past twenty-five years he has worked with families facing bereavement/divorce/loss. He has graduate degrees in education (MEd), Family Life Ministry (M.S.) and psycho-spirituality (M.A.).

Reverend Betty Clark is founding pastor of The Church Without Walls in Oakland where she has served for twelve years with her partner pastor, Reverend Eugene Williams. Reverend Clark received her graduate degree from the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley and is currently working on her doctorate at Drew University, School of Theology. Reverend Clark has worked as a hospital chaplain for sixteen years and founded the East Bay Community End-of-Life Coalition. Her ministry includes chaplaincy, mediation, grief and spiritual counseling, and congregational grief. She has conducted workshops on Cultural Diversity and the End of Life.

Connors McConville, MDiv., MFT, is a somatic psychotherapist, a spiritual director and a hospice spiritual care counselor. Connors was a Jesuit seminarian for 14 years. As part of that training he worked as a missionary in Thailand from 1974 – 1978 and later taught in Thailand for 11 years. While in Thailand, Connors studied Buddhism and Vipassana (meditation) formally in Chiangmai and in Bangkok. Connors has a private psychotherapy and spiritual direction practice in San Francisco.

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About Hope Hospice

Hope Hospice, a 501c (3) non-profit organization since 1980, provides compassionate care, insight, and guidance as families navigate through the end-of-life process. The team of professionals, many with hospice and palliative care certification, provides emotional and spiritual support and state-of-the art methods of pain and symptom control to maximize quality of life. Hope Hospice serves families in Alamo, Blackhawk, Castro Valley, Diablo, Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Sunol and the surrounding communities in the East Bay of San Francisco. For more information call (925) 829-8770, (510) 439-4917, or visit us at www.HopeHospice.com.

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