

DEBORAH GOLDEN ALECSON

Lenox, MA 01240

DAlecson@msn.com

www.deborahgoldenalecson.com

Education: **M.S. Special Education**, Hunter College, New York City
Specialization: Emotional Disturbance
B.A. Hunter College, New York City
Major: Philosophy **Minor:** English

Antioch University New England
Department of Applied Psychology
Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate

Past Employment: **Excelsior College**
Albany, New York

I taught an undergraduate course in medical humanities that I designed for The School of Liberal Arts.

I have been teaching "Ethics of Health Care", "Death, Dying and Bereavement" and "Spirituality in Life Transitions" for the Schools of Health, Science and Nursing.

Williams College
Department of Psychology
Williamstown, MA

I designed and taught a course entitled, "Thanatology 101" for the Winter Study 2015 and 2016 session.

HospiceCare in the Berkshires, Inc.
Pediatric Palliative Care Program

Pitts field, Massachusetts

I was an autism specialist and special education consultant for the program.

CHILD Treatment & Consulting Services

Great Barrington, Massachusetts

This was a private practice that I shared with Dr. Larry Bronstein, D.C., C.N.S., D.A.C.B.N.

Columbia County Department of Health
Early Intervention and Preschool Services

Hudson, New York

I was a provider of special education services for children birth to three.

Westchester County Department of Health
Services for Children with Disabilities

I was an independent contractor who provided special instruction.

Adjunct Instructor

Philosophy Department

S.U.N.Y. The College at New Paltz

New Paltz, New York

I taught Biomedical Ethics.

Adjunct Lecturer

Department of Humanities
LaGuardia Community College, C.U.N.Y.
Long Island City, New York

I taught a humanities course entitled "Critical Thinking Skills."

Adjunct Lecturer

English Department
Pace University
New York, New York

I taught English literature (prose, poetry and drama), grammar, composition and how to write a research paper.

Teacher

Martin Luther King, Jr. High School
N.Y.C. Board of Education
New York, New York

I was an appointed, full-time English teacher in the Special Education Department. I have a permanent license in E.H. (Emotionally Handicapped).

Workshops:

Musings on Mortality

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Williamstown, MA
Spring 2018

The Grief Process

The Second Annual Interfaith Forum on Death, Dying and the Afterlife
Great Barrington, MA

Experiencing Our Spiritual Dimension:

A Prerequisite to Providing Spiritual Care

HospiceCare in the Berkshires Pitts field, MA

I facilitated a four-hour workshop for social workers and chaplains.

Spirituality in Health Care

Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington, MA
February 9 & 16, 2011, April 5 & 7, 2011

I facilitated a four-hour workshop for nurses and other health care providers.

Forums:

The Second Annual Interfaith Forum on Death, Dying, and the Afterlife Great Barrington, MA

February 9, 2014

I collaborated with Rimon Resource Center for Jewish Spirituality to produce this forum for which I served as a moderator.

Spiritual Views on Death and the Afterlife: An Interfaith Forum
Great Barrington, MA

February 3, 2013

I collaborated with Rimon Resource Center for Jewish Spirituality to produce this forum for which I served as a moderator.

Presentations: “Dying Well in a Death-Phobic Culture”

Distinguished Lecture Series
Lenox Library, Massachusetts

“A Good Death in a Death-Phobic Culture”

Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire grant
Williamstown, Massachusetts

“Grief: That Which Makes Us Human”

Lifetime Learning Institute at Bard College
Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

Elements of Spirituality In Conscious Dying

Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA

“Caregiving for a Loved One”

I spoke about my role as caregiver for my late husband at the one-day Caregivers Fall Retreat at Mason Hill, Cheshire, Massachusetts.

“Hope and Conscious Dying or What Happens When We Forget That We Are Mortal”

Cell2Soul 2008 Conference, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

“Rupture to Recovery Program”

I gave a talk about end of life decision making before a group of acute care nurses and support staff at White Plains Hospital, White Plains, NY, April 30 & May 17, 2002.

“End of Life Care”

I was invited to speak to the oncology social work committee at the Eastern Division of the American Cancer Society.

Hospice - Myths and Realities

I was part of a panel made up of professionals from Jansen Memorial Hospice at Sarah Lawrence College.

Publications: BOOKS

Complicated Grief: A Collection of Poems (Finishing Line Press, 2014)

We Are So Lightly Here: A Story About Conscious Dying (IntoPrint Publishing, 2014)

Lost Lullaby (IntoPrint Publishing, 2014) It was the recipient of “The Washington Irving Book Award.”

Alternative Therapies for Children Within the Autistic Spectrum (Keats Publishing, 1999)

NEWSPAPER COLUMN

Musings on Mortality, Berkshire Eagle.

Publications
(cont'd):

ARTICLES

This Mortal Coil, The Sun Magazine, April 2021. I interviewed Sheldon Solomon, Ph.D

A Thanatologist's Point of View, Nursing in the 21st Century, Issue 4, 2015.

Converting Loss into Language, Bereavement Care, Vol. 33, Issue 3, 2014.

George's Story: Searching for a Treatment for Developmental Disorders, Westchester Family, November 1997.

Full Circle essay, Family Circle magazine, based on *Lost Lullaby*, June 1996.

Poets House, Women's Quarterly Review, Summer 1987.

JOURNALISM

The Scarsdale Inquirer: Freelance writing.

Martinelli Press: Syndicated Newspaper column: I wrote a column published twice a month in seven local newspapers about preventive and alternative medicine.

POETRY

My poetry has appeared in the following: *Lost Lullaby*, *The Archer*, *Women's Quarterly Review*, *Earthwise Poetry Journal*, *American Poetry Anthology*, *New Leaves Review*, *Thoughts Take Flight*, *Embers*, and *Hemlock Quarterly Review*.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Greenfields Poetry/Prose Reading Series
Brooklyn, New York

I originated and ran the Series. I was responsible for all aspects: grant proposals, correspondence, selecting and booking writers, scheduling the Series, presenting the writers, publicity and working with the staff at Green Fields Cafe.

**Past
Volunteer
Work:**

HospiceCare in the Berkshires

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

I was a patient volunteer.

Scholarships:

Visiting Scholar, Hastings Center, New York, January 1990.

Writers Conference, New York University, Summer 1988.

Grants:

The Berkshire Kripalu Community, 2014

Excelsior College, FDSS Professional Development Fund, 2013

Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire

April 2016

Organizations:

Association for Death Education and Counseling