

**Sandra L. Bertman, Ph.D., FT**

**Programs of Thanatology, Grief Dynamics and the Healing Arts**

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**Recent Adjunct Appointments/Affiliations:**

**Fellow, Institute for Arts and Health, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA  
Good Shepherd Community Care Institute & Hospice, Newton, MA**

Clinical Associate Professor, Psychiatry, Nova Osteopathic Medicine, FL  
Faculty, New England AIDS Education & Training Center, MA

Distinguished Professor, Thanatology, Palliative Care and Arts, National Ctr. for  
Death Education (Rtd. 2014)

Professor of Community and Family Medicine, Dartmouth Medical School, NH  
(2008-2012)

**See also Prior Professional Appointments (below)**

**Education**

Ph.D., 1988, Medical Humanities, Psychology of Loss, Union Institute, Cincinnati, OH

FT, 2006, Fellow in Thanatology, Association Death Education and Counseling

LCSW, 1980, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, License 213819

Ed.M., 1964, Boston University, Boston, MA (Honors: Pi Lambda Theta)

B.A., 1958, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

**Honors, Awards**

Good Shepherd Community Care, Lifetime Achievement Award, 2018

Robert F. Kennedy Award for Social Justice, National Association for HIV Over Fifty,  
2018

Association for the Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education, Lifetime  
Achievement Award, 2015

International Workgroup on Death, Dying & Bereavement, Herman Feifel (Lifetime  
Achievement) Award, 2013

Global Society for Arts & Health (formerly Society for Arts in Healthcare), Janice  
Palmer (Lifetime Achievement) Award, 2013

Association for Death Education and Counseling, Special Contributions to the Field  
Award, 2012

Ambassador, The Society for Arts in Healthcare, 2012

Distinguished Fellow, The Society for Arts in Healthcare, 2011

Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, Honorary Membership  
Induction, 2003

American Academy Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Outstanding Contribution to  
End-of-Life Care, Humanities Award (co-recipient) 2001

New England AIDS Education & Training Center, Honoree, 2008

National Center for Death Education, Annual Outstanding Achievement Award  
(counseling & education), 1997

Association for Death Education and Counseling, Outstanding Death Educator, 1991

Foundation of Thanatology, Bernard Schoenberg Award, 1990

Foundation of Thanatology, Dame Cicely Saunders Award, 1989

American Journal of Hospice Care, Dame Cicely Saunders Award, ("for extending her  
classroom and counseling techniques to patients, families, and staff in hospice,  
hospital and other therapeutic settings"), 1989

University of Massachusetts, (Commemorating 125 Yrs Service to the  
Commonwealth of MA), Distinguished Professional and Public Service (citing work  
in Humanities & Medicine; Psychology of Death and Dying, all campuses), 1988

University of Massachusetts Medical School, Chancellor's Commendation  
Palliative Care Unit, Psychosocial Team, 1985

Christopher Award, film: "Dying," PBS, WGBH, Boston, 1974

United Press International Award: Radio program: "Sing a Song of Dying," WCAS,  
Cambridge, MA, 1971

Pi Lambda Theta, (Honor Society) Boston University Graduate School of Education,  
1959

### **Grant Awards (Principal Investigator)**

Steven K. Helman Foundation, Program of Thanatology & Arts in Healthcare, 2009-  
2012

Charitable Trust, Program of Palliative Care & Humanities, 2003-2008

U.S. State Dept: AIDS Africa (Namibia, Botswana), 2001, 2002

Project on Death in America: Visions and Voices from the Arts and Humanities,  
2001-2004

Charitable Trust: Humanities and Palliative Care Endowment, 1997-2002

Dana Project at the Recuperative Center for "Staff Training Series in Loss and  
Rehabilitation," 1993

Arthur Vining Davis Foundation for "Harbor of Hope," (a video documentary on healing), 1992

Public Service Endowment Grant for "Humanities and Ethics in Health Care," 1989

David A. Aransky Foundation for "Cross-Cultural Research on Loss and Grief," 1984

Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare for "Humanistic Health Care Education in a Hospice Setting," 1980

National Endowment for the Humanities, Consultancy Grant for UMMC, 1973

### **Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations (selected and incomplete)**

**Please visit Programs [www.sandrabortman.com](http://www.sandrabortman.com) for 2004-2018 calendar**

"Last Rights/Last Rites: Decision and Meaning Making at the End of Life," Plenary, National AID Social Work Conference, Phila. Apr. 2001

"The Visual Arts: Windows on Suffering and the Human Spirit," Plenary, 13th International Congress on Care of the Terminally Ill, Montreal, Sept., 2000

"Art and Medicine: Restoring the SOUL to Healthcare," Society for Arts in Healthcare, Prov. Apr., 2000

"End of Life Care," Keynote address, Nova University, Osteopathic Medicine, Ft. Lauderdale, Mar, 2000

"The Many Faces of Creativity in Later Life," Boston Soc. for Gerontological. Psychiatry, Oct. 1999

"The Art and Soul of Hospice," Keynote, Regional Education Conf., Massachusetts Hospice Federation/ New England. Nov. 1999

"Why the Arts?" How Humanities and Arts Can Enhance Palliative Care, Sheffield Univ., Eng. June 22, 1999

"Quality of Care at the End of Life," Faculty, 10th Annual Arizona Geriatrics Society, Tempe, Nov. 1998

"Death with Illumination," Banquet speaker, Fall Conference and Exposition, Colorado Hospice, Vail, Oct. 1998

"Last Acts: Old Paradoxes and New Paradigms," Keynote address, Palliative Care in the 21st Century, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago, Oct. 1998

"Last Acts: Meaning-Making at the End of Life," Plenary address, Issues in Gerontological Care, Contemporary Forums Conference, Orlando, FL, May, 1998

"Expressions of Suffering: Images Sacred and Profane," Keynote presentation, workshop, 8th Annual Palliative Care Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Apr. 1998

"Birth, Sex, Drugs, and Death: Changing Images of AIDS," Keynote address, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Washington, DC, Dec. 1997

"Hospice Traditions: Sacred and Profane," Plenary address, National Hospice Organization 19th Annual Symposium, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 1997

"Spirituality: A Celebration of Life," Plenary addresses and workshops, Hospice--New Zealand Annual Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 1997

"Living with Dying: Engaged Care to the Very End, and Then Some," Keynote session, Northeast Regional Nurse Practitioner Association, Westford, MA, May, 1997

"Changing Essentials of the 'Good Death' in the '90s," Keynote, Annual Texas/New Mexico Hospice, 1997

**Publications (selected) (\*\* Downloadable from website)**

*Facing Death: Images, Insights and Intervention*, A Handbook for Educators, Healthcare Professionals, and Counselors, Taylor & Francis, NY, 1991.

*Grief and the Healing Arts: Creativity as Therapy*, Ed., Baywood, NY, 1999.

*One Breath Apart: Facing Dissection*, Cambridge, MA: Baywood, NY, 2009.

*The Handbook for Mortals and Sourcebook on Dying*, Core Team Member of Center to Improve Care of the Dying, Oxford University Press, 1999; Revised Edition, 2006.

*Caring for the Caregivers*. Co-authored with Nurses Association of Botswana. Kgota Designs, Botswana, 2004.\*\*

<http://www.sandrabortman.com/caregiver/files/caregiver.html>

Art, Spirit and Soul. DVD, 2005; DVD and book project (2009) version II in process.

Reflections on Wholeness, DVD & book Project (2012) in process.

**(articles, chapters)**

A Time to Heal: Using Art as an Aid to Trauma Recovery. In Thompson, N. Cox, G. Stevenson, R. (Eds.) *Handbook of Traumatic Loss: A Guide to Theory and Practice*. NY:Routledge, 151-165. 2017.

Volts of Connection: Visual Case Studies revisited. *Grief Matters: The Australian Journal of Grief and Bereavement* Vol. 19(1) May 2016:25-29.

Using the Arts and Humanities with the Dying, Bereaved, . . . and Ourselves. In Stillion, J. Attig, T. (Eds.) *Death, Dying and Bereavement: Contemporary Perspectives, Institutions and Practices*. NY:Springer. 2045-259. 2015.

Communicating with the Dead: Timeless Insights and Interventions from the Arts, *Omega*, Vol. 70(1) 119-132, 2014-2-15. (Festschrift Issue Kastenbaum).

Foreword, *Grief and the Expressive Arts*, Thompson, B, Neimeyer, B. (Eds.) 2014.

Preface/Foreword,, *Caregiver Stress and Staff Support in Illness, Dying and Bereavement*, Renzenbrink, I (Ed.), Oxford University Press, 2011.

Expressive Arts and Thanatology: An Image a Day, *ADEC Forum*, 37(1),2011,1,3-4,7. [click to view](#)

[http://www.sandrabortman.com/files/Expressive%20Arts\\_ADECForum.pdf](http://www.sandrabortman.com/files/Expressive%20Arts_ADECForum.pdf)

"Through the Creative Lens of the Artist: Society's Perception of Death in Children," in *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Care for Children*, Goldman, A., Hain, R., Liben, S. (Eds.), Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. Revised Edition, 2012.

"Visual Art for Professional Development," in *Dying, Bereavement, and the Healing Arts*, Bolton, G. (Ed.), London: Jessica Kingsley, 2008.

With Leet, J., "Through the Creative Lens of the Artist: Society's Perception of Death in Children," in *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Care for Children*, Goldman, A., Hain, R., Liben, S. (Eds.), Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. 9 January 2006 \*\*.

"Using the Arts to Support Professional Caregivers in Theory and Practice," in *Caring for Caregivers A Grassroots USA-Japan Initiative*, Kable, L. (Ed.) Washington, DC: Society for the Arts in Healthcare, 2003.

"Staying Present with Suffering—Images Still and Moving," *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*, 2(2), 2003. 65-80.

"AIDS in Africa: Blurring the Boundaries Between Life and Art," *The Forum*. 29(4), 2003. 4-5. [www.adec.org/pdf/0310.pdf](http://www.adec.org/pdf/0310.pdf) \*\*

"Public Tragedy and the Arts," in *Living With Grief Coping with Public Tragedy*, Lattanzi-Licht, M, Doka, K, (Eds), NY: Hospice Foundation of America/Brunner Routledge, 2003. [www.hospicefoundation.org/coping/pdf](http://www.hospicefoundation.org/coping/pdf) \*\*

"Visual Case Studies: A Practice Tool for Dialogue about HIV and Social Services," *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services: Research, Practice & Policy*, 1(2), 2002, 79-86.

"Thinking Out Loud, or What is a Humanist like you doing in a place like that?" *Illness, Crisis & Loss*, 9(1) Jan. 2001, 70-89.

"Volts of Connection: The Arts as Shock Therapy," *Grief Matters: Australian Journal of Grief & Bereavement*, 3(3) Summer, 2000, 51-53. \*\*

"Why the Humanities:Setting the Stage for Dialogue," *J. Geriatric Psych* 33(2), 2000.

With Bailey,s., Bridgman M., et al., "The Arts and Humanities in Health Care and Education," *Death Studies*, 24:365-375, 2000.

"Ars Moriendi: Illuminations on 'The Good Death' from the Arts and Humanities," *A Good Dying: Shaping Health Care for the Last Months of Life*, Harrold, J., Lynn, J. (Eds.), 1998: Hayworth, NY, 5-26.

With Marks, S., Penney, J., "Foundations for Education about Death and Dying in Medicine," *Clinical Anatomy*, 10:118-122, 1997.

"From the Very First Patient to the Very Last, " in *Death and the Quest for Meaning*, Strack, S., Ed., Jason Aranson, Northvale, NJ, 1997. \*\*

"Case Study: A 'Good' Death," *Hospice Update, Academy of Hospice Physicians Quarterly*, 5(4), 1995.

With Winkler, M. G., "Medicine and the Arts," *Academic Medicine*, 70(9) 822-823, 1955.

"Using Story, Film, and Drama to Help Children Cope with Death," in *Bereaved Children and Teens*, Grollman, E.A. (Ed.), Beacon, Boston, 1995.

"Bearing the Unbearable: From Loss the Gain," in *The Path Ahead*, DeSpelder, L., Stickland, A.L. (Eds.) Mayfield, CA, 1995.

"Past the Smart of Feeling: Images of Grief in Literature, Art, and Pop Culture," in *Dying, Death, Bereavement*, Corless, I, et al. (Eds.), Jones & Bartlett, Boston, 1994.

With Sumpter, H., Greene, H., "Bereavement and Grief," in *Introduction to Clinical Medicine*, Greene, H. (Ed.), Decker, Philadelphia, 1991.

"Children and Death: Insights, Hindsight, and Illuminations," in *Children and Death*, Papadatos/Papadatou (Eds.), Hemisphere, NY, 1991.

*Death: A Primer for All Ages*, Thanatology Research and Education Center, NY, 1990.

"Aging Grace: Treatments of the Aged in the Arts," *Death Studies*, 13 (6), 1989.

"Attending to Unmeasurables and Unmentionables in Medical Education," *Bulletin of the Society for Health and Human Values*, 17(1), 1987. \*\*

With Wertheimer, M. D., Wheeler, B., "Humanities in Surgery: A Life-Threatening Situation: Communicating the Diagnosis," *Death Studies*, 10(5), 1986.

With Greene, H., Wyatt, C., "Humanistic Health Care in a Hospice/Palliative Care Setting," in *Death Education for the Health Care Professional*, Benoliel, J. (Ed.), McGraw-Hill, NY, 1982.

"Communicating with the Dead: An Ongoing Experience as Expressed in Art, Literature, and Song," in *Between Life and Death*, Kastenbaum, R. J., Ed., Springer, NY, 1979.

With Krant, M. J., "To Know of Suffering and the Teaching of Empathy," in *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol.2, Pergamon, Great Britain, 1977.

"Death Education in the Face of a Taboo," in *Concerning Death: A Practical Guide for the Living*, Grollman, E. (Ed.), Beacon, Boston, MA, 1974.

Dying: Study Guide to Accompany Film *Dying* (WGBH), PBS, Boston, MA, 1976.

Foreword to *The Path Through Grief* by M. Bouvard and E. Gladu, Prometheus, NY, 1998.

Foreword to *AIDS: Fear and Society* by K. Doka, Taylor & Francis, 1996.

Foreword to *The Girl in the Raindrop* by R. Kastenbaum, Hemisphere, NY, 1991.

"The Correlated Curriculum," *Journal of Education*, Boston: Boston University Press, Vol. 148, Dec., 1965.

"Creative Approaches to the Teaching of English," *Journal of Education*, Vol. 144: 1964. Reprinted by the National Council of the Teachers of English, Washington, DC, 1965.

### **Visiting Professorships**

Costal Carolina University, Nancy Smith Distinguished Professorship, 2011

Scholar in Residence, Boston College School of Nursing (2008-2010)

University of Kansas School of Medicine, 2006

Sidney Institute of Palliative Care, Australia, 2001

Dartmouth Medical College, 1993-2006 (annual appointment)

Clinical Associate Professor, Behavioral Medicine Dept., Nova Southeastern

University College of Osteopathic Medicine, 2000-2008

Senior Scholar in Clinical Thanatology and Palliative Care, National Ctr for Death Education, Mount Ida College, Newton, MA. 2000-2007

Ctr for Literature, Medicine & the Health Care Professions, Hiram, Ohio, "Talking Ourselves to Death," Narratives and Caregiving at the End of Life," June 22-27, 1999

Newcastle Mater Misericordiae Hospital, New South Wales, Australia, July. 1998

International Society for Advancement of Humanistic Studies in Medicine, Keystone, CO ("End of Life: Events, Planning, Management") Feb. 1998

Harvard School of Public Health, course on "Interdisciplinary Care of the Aged," 1991-1994

Johns Hopkins Medical School (courses on death and dying), 1990-1994

### **Selected Courses, Trainings for Practitioners**

Botswana Nursing Association: End-of-Life, Grief& Bereavement, Burnout 2001-2002

Catholic AIDS Action, "Caring for Ourselves in Order to Care for Others," Namibia, 2001

Massachusetts Dept. Mental Health, RWJ Grant "End of Life Care for Persons



w/Serious Mental Illness, (curriculum development and trainer), Metro Suburban Area, MA, 2000  
American Academy for Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM), Colorado, 1997, AAHPM, Seattle, WA 1998 (certification exam review course (hum., grief/bereavement, spirituality); AAHPM, Tampa, FL, 1999  
Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC), Intermediate Certification Course, grief counseling), 1994-1996  
The Union Institute, Logan, UT (course in cultural diversities in death, dying and grief). 1997  
National Center for Death Education, Summer Institute (courses on grief, AIDS, Hospice/Palliative Medicine etc.) Newton, MA, 1992-2012.

### **International National Committee Memberships, Boards and Advisory Boards**

Jeff's Place, Metrowest, MA 2010—present  
Founding Board Member, International Association for Music and Medicine, 2009  
The Society for Arts in Health Care, Board Member, 2003-2009  
-Chair, Research Committee, 2006-2008;  
-Founding Chair, Medical Education SIG 2007-2009;  
-Founding Chair, Hospice and Palliative Care SIG 2009-2012  
Discovery Project, Advisory Board Member, 2009—2011  
International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement, 1974-present;  
Founding member; (1974); Co-Chair: Arts and Humanities Work Group (1992)  
Rosetta Life, United Kingdom, Advisory Board, 2008-2011  
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities  
-Chair: Hospice and Palliative Medicine Affinity Group, 1998-2000  
-Founding Co-Chair: Visual Studies Group, 1997  
International Society for Advancement of Humanistic Studies in Medicine, Honorary Member, 1998-present  
Friends Way, (Founding Board Member), Prov. RI, 1999-2007 Advisory Board, 2007-2010  
ADEC: CT Credentialing Council, Board of Knowledge Committee, 2006 -2010  
New England AIDS Education & Training Center Advisory Board, 1990-present  
Missoula Demonstration Project, Advisory Board, 1997-2000  
International Arts-Medicine Association, Board Member, 1997-1999  
Mary's Place, Center for Grieving Children, Windsor, CT, Honorary Board, 1997-2000  
Center to Improve Care of the Dying, Washington, DC, consultant, 1996-2000  
American Academy of Hospice Physicians and Palliative Medicine (humanities advisory group), 1994-2000; Chair, Humanities Committee. 2001—2004  
HIV Palliative Care Canadian Educational Module Review, ad hoc committee, 1997  
National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, ad hoc committee, 1994  
National Endowment for the Humanities, outside reviewer, 1993-present  
National Center for Death Education, Advisory Board, 1990-2005



## **Journal Reviewer, Editorial Boards**

Advisory Editor, *Bereavement Care*, (Humanities and Arts), 2011-present  
*Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education*, Reflections Column Editor, 2010-2017  
Founding Curator, The Arts in Palliative Care Column, *Journal of Palliative Care*, 2008-2012  
*On-Line Database of Literature, Art and Medicine*, Co-Editor, 2000-present  
Editor, Reflections Section, *Journal of Assoc. of Behavioral Science and Medical Education*, 2010—present  
Founding Curator, “Staying Soulful “ Column, *AAHPM Bulletin, American Academy for Hospice & Palliative Medicine*, 2001-2005  
Reviewer: Yale University Press, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Journal of Palliative Care*, *Omega*, *American Journal of Hospice Care*, *Thanatology Abstracts*, *Foundation of Thanatology*, *Journal American Medical Association (JAMA)*; *Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*; *Routledge Publishers*  
Editorial boards: *Death Studies*, *Journal of Medical Humanities*, *Omega*, *Palliative & Supportive Care*, *Illness, Crisis & Loss*  
Co-editor: *Death Studies Special Issue*, "Loss; Catastrophic and Personal," 18(3), 1997.  
Associate editor: *The Literature on Death and Dying, Series 11*, Arno, NY

## **Consultantships**

Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Newton, MA (Education coordinator; Integrative Therapies Taskforce (facilitator) 1997-present  
Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH. Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Initiative (care of the dying, house-staff & faculty, 1993-1995)  
New England AIDS Education and Training Center (grief & expressive therapies; cumulative loss and staff support; end-of-life decision making), 1991-present  
“Death: The Trip of a Lifetime,” KCTV, Seattle, WA, 1992  
Good Grief Program, Judge Baker Children's Center, Boston, MA, 1990-2001  
Children's Museum, Boston, MA (death, loss), 1982-1984  
Health Care Financing Administration, Hospice Demonstration Project, UMMC (education specialist), 1980-1984  
Palliative Care Service, UMMC (education and training), 1977-1990  
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, TX (anatomy, neuroscience), 1980  
New England Repertory Theater, Worcester, MA (humanities), 1980

Brookline School System, Division of Counseling and Teaching, Brookline, MA, 1977

Milton Hershey Medical Center, Humanities Department, Hershey, PA (visual arts, aging, media development), 1976-1977

Tufts University Medical School, Boston, MA (clinical medicine course, media), 1975-1976

Educational Television, Death Task Force, Channel 13, NY, 1973-1974

Milton Hershey Medical Center, Pennsylvania State University, Hershey, PA (medical humanities, death and dying), 1972-1973

Education Development Corporation, Cambridge, MA (aging, curriculum development), 1976

Institute for Jewish Studies, Dedham, MA (aging, death, social responsibility, media), 1975-1977

Newton School System, Division of Instruction, Newton, MA (death education; faculty trainings), 1971-1976

New England School Development Council, BRIDGE Cambridge, MA (arts consultant), 1969.

### **Prior Professional Appointments**

**Distinguished Professor of Thanatology and the Arts** (2007-2014)

National Center for Death Education, Mount Ida College, Newton, MA

**Research Professor of Palliative Care**, 2002-2007

Director, Program of Medical Humanities and Arts in Palliative Care

Boston College, Graduate School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA

**Professor of Humanities in Medicine**, 1989-2002

University of Massachusetts Medical Center (Worcester Campus)

Professor of Humanities in Medicine, Department of Medicine, Medical School

Associate Faculty, Graduate School of Nursing, Univ. of Massachusetts, 1991-2002

Founding Director, Program in Medical Humanities and the Arts in Health Care

University of Massachusetts Medical School

[http://www.umassmed.edu/commed/programs/medical\\_humanities](http://www.umassmed.edu/commed/programs/medical_humanities) Founding

Director, Program of Medical Humanities, 1979-1995

Associate Professor of Humanities in Medicine, 1979-1989

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry in the Program of Ethics, Values, and Medical Humanities, Univ of Massachusetts Medical School, 1977-1979

**Faculty**, New England AIDS Education & Training Center, 1990-present

**Lecturer**, Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts (Harbor Campus), Boston, MA, 1977-1979

**Director, Equinox Institute**, Boston, MA, 1977-1981; Education Director, 1971-1976

**Co-Director, Program in Ethics & Values in Health**, Tufts University Medical  
School, Boston, 1974-1975

**Instructor**, English and "Literature and the Arts," Laney College, Oakland, CA, 1965-  
1966

**Teacher**, English (Theater and Dance), Newton High Schools, Newton, MA, 1958-  
1963