The Role of the Chaplain in the Hospice and the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Team

Rabbi Rudansky will be talking about the contrast between a rabbi in a synagogue setting versus a rabbi working in the health care setting—specifically dealing with end-of-life issues—the dying process, death itself and of course how Jewish Law and Customs fit into that topic.

Pastor Eric Towse will explore the spiritual or existential needs of hospice and palliative care patients and how the hospice and palliative care chaplain can be utilized to help meet these needs. He will present an overview of the education of the chaplain: clinical pastoral education - its strengths and weaknesses and the skill set of the pastoral care provider in the hospital, hospice, and palliative care settings. He will explore secular vs. spiritual interventions to existential issues in the face of chronic illness moving towards end-of-life and define the chaplain's role of spiritual support in the patient/family care plan as well as offering a supportive presence to the interdisciplinary team.

Justin vonBudjoss, Buddhist Chaplain, will talk about how Buddhism informs his work as a Chaplain and how he views the role of Chaplain in general.

Speaker Bios

**Rabbi Charles Rudansky**, Director of Jewish Clinical Services for Hospice and Palliative Care, MJHS Hospice & Palliative Care

Since 2005, Rabbi Charles Rudansky has been director of pastoral care at MJHS Hospice, where he oversees three other chaplains and coordinates with medical staff to meet the spiritual needs of patients. Before coming to MJHS Hospice, he worked for Cabrini Medical Center, Hospice; Continuum Hospice Care of Beth Israel; and Hospice Care Network.

At MJHS, Rabbi Rudansky is known as a 20 year veteran in the field of end of life care. Prior to specializing in hospice, Rabbi Rudansky served as a hospital chaplain and as a chaplain for the U.S. Army, where he held the rank of captain. Certified as a medical chaplain from the New York Board of Rabbis, he also is certified in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) from the Health Care Chaplaincy. He received his ordination from Yeshiva University in 1989 and lives in Westchester County, where he is rabbi of Orienta Synagogue.

**Rev. Eric R. Towse**, Pastoral Care Team Leader, MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care, New York, NY.

Rev. Eric R Towse is the Pastoral Care Team Leader for MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care and is a 19-year hospice veteran; he has recently received certification from the California State University Institute in Palliative Care Chaplaincy Specialty Certificate Program. Rev. Towse has received clinical pastoral
education (CPE) training, as well as having completed nine units of UNIPAC from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, of which he is an associate member. He also has received training from the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC). Rev. Towse has written the spiritual care portion of the HPCANYC Interdisciplinary Pediatric Palliative Care Curriculum and has produced a comprehensive procedural manual for proper electronic documentation of spiritual care. He motivates his pastoral care team to take a greater interest in the spiritual issues of end-of-life care as related to specific disease processes, and to be a strong presence at the Interdisciplinary Team meetings, offering support to staff as well as to patients and families.

Justin von Budjoss, Buddhist Chaplain. He is both Hospice Chaplain at Calvary Hospice and Co-Founder/Director of the New York Tsurphu Goshir Dharma Center.

Justin von Budjoss (Repa Dorje Odzer) is the Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of New York Tsurphu Goshir Dharma Center (goshir.org), the North American Dharma Center of His Eminence Goshir Gyaltsab Rinpoche. In 2011 Dorje Odzer was empowered and ordained as a Repa by H.E. Goshir Gyaltsab Rinpoche at his seat monastery Palchen Chosling in Ralang, Sikkim. He is also a chaplain with Calvary Hospice, one of the largest hospice systems in the New York City area where he offers spiritual care to the dying and their loved ones. Justin has completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at The New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care. He has been practicing Buddhism since 1995 during which time he has come to be a student of the late Ani Dechen Zangmo, the late Kyabje Pathing Rinpoche, the late Kyabje Bokar Rinpoche, Khenpo Lodro Donyo, and Bhod Tulku. He has been a student of His Eminence Goshir Gyaltsab Rinpoche for over ten years. Additionally, Justin also contributes to ganachakra.com, a blog that looks at the intersection of engaged dharma practice and chaplaincy. While not spending time with his patients, or in Sikkim, Repa Dorje Odzer can be found searching for wonderful places to practice in the New York city area amidst the everyday occurrences of life as we have come to know it.