Please Join Us for an Unique Experience!

Virtual Guardianship Training Webinar

“The Journey from Grief and Loss to the Promise of Hope, Joy and Resilience”

Thursday, April 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We are living in a time of great uncertainty, change and loss which has disrupted our lives on a massive scale. No one can escape the impact of separation from the people, places and routines that comfort and sustain us. There are many ways to cope with loss and together we will explore our experiences and share strategies that can help.

Please join The Arc New York Guardianship Program as we explore the grief that accompanies loss of any kind, how we can apply strength-based strategies that help us be resilient through grief and together find ways to connect with practices and tools that promote our resilience and inspire gratitude.

Webinar Presenters:

Erica F. Berman, Director of Guardianship Services, The Arc New York
Ira Baumgarten, Author, Senior Trainer & Consultant with National Coalition Building Institute
Barbara Ende, Chaplain, Director of Community Outreach & Contemplative Care at the New York Zen Center; Guardianship Advocate, The Arc Westchester
Anna Frankel, Retired Director of Clinical Services, The Arc Dutchess
Daniel Gallagher, Coordinator of Clinical Services/Guardianship Coordinator, The Arc Livingston-Wyoming
Heidi R. Weiss, LMSW, MHA, Moderator/Commentator
Ira Baumgarten and his family have experienced death and loss in their own lives. The support of hospice has helped them process the fear and grief so they could be present in their loved ones’ end-of-life journeys. As part of this healing process, Ira wrote the book, *A Night on Buddy’s Bench: An End of Life Story*, to help initiate end-of-life conversations that can comfort both the living and the dying. In collaboration with the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State, Ira wrote a follow-up book entitled: *A Pilgrim’s Way through Grief – A Guide to A Night on Buddy’s Bench*. These books, along with other texts and a short-film entitled *Spirit Calling* explore the beauty and brevity of life and have been used by hospice staff and volunteers nationally and internationally in their work with families and individuals.

Prior to becoming an author, Ira had a career as an adult educator with the Civil Service Employee Association and the United Auto Workers. He is currently a senior trainer and consultant with the National Coalition Building Institute, a non-profit diversity and leadership training organization. Ira writes, “In this time of social isolation, our ability to hold both our feelings of loss and the preciousness of life is a spiritual calling we’re all facing.”

Mr. Baumgarten has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Oneonta and a Master’s Degree in Adult Education from Syracuse University.

“I have read countless books on grief and loss. *A Night on Buddy’s Bench* has touched me in ways that no other has. Ira leads readers on a journey, not judging where we are and why, letting us unfold the lessons of loss and healing.”

—Carla Bravemen, Executive Director of Hospice & Palliative Care Association NYS
Erica F. Berman is the Director for Guardianship Services at The Arc New York and has been employed by the organization for 37 years. Ms. Berman is responsible for the overall administration of one of the largest non-profit corporate guardianship programs in New York State, which currently serves as primary, and standby or successor guardian for more than 650 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

During her tenure at The Arc New York, Ms. Berman has served on a number of local, state, and national boards, steering and advisory committees, and has contributed to publications which have addressed such topics as guardianship, health care surrogacy, Supplemental Needs Trusts and other future planning alternatives. She was one of the founding members of the nonprofit Guardianship Association of New York State (GANYS) in 1995, an organization of professionals, family members and other individuals committed to supporting guardians and other surrogate decision makers in enhancing the lives of people who require supports. Ms. Berman has coordinated, collaborated on and participated in numerous education programs throughout New York State on guardianship and related topics. She serves on the Third Age Committee for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as on the panel for the Surrogate Decision-Making Committee (SDMC) program, which is administered by the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. During her tenure at The Arc New York, she has assisted with the coordination of statewide conferences on topics related to guardianship, surrogate and Supported decision making, and future care planning that have been held in the Capital Region as well as other regions in New York State.

Ms. Berman has also served as a board member of the National Guardianship Association (NGA), was appointed as an original Trustee of the National Guardianship Foundation from 1995-2000. In addition to serving on the editorial board for and contributing to the publication on Planning for the Future: A Guide for Families and Friends of Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Ms. Berman was a primary contributor to the OMRDD publication, Health Care Choices which is designed to familiarize New Yorkers with health care decision options that are available for individuals who have mental retardation and developmental disabilities and their families. This was originally published in 2004.

Ms. Berman attended College in Nashville, Tennessee where she received her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Special Education and Multiple Disabilities from George Peabody College for Teachers of Vanderbilt University.
Barbara Ende is a Chaplain and the Director of Community Outreach and Contemplative Care at New York Zen Center. In this capacity she facilitates training in Contemplative Orientation to Resilience (COR) to healthcare workers and administrators, expands NYZC’s reach in offering support to vulnerable populations in NYC and supervises Chaplain Interns at New York City Hospitals and Senior Living Facilities. As Chaplain she facilitates Living Fearlessly, a deep dive into the practical, emotional and spiritual tasks at the end of life, provides individual grief counseling and supports individuals at the bedside at the end of life.

Ms. Ende has a Masters in Psychology and a Masters in Pastoral Care and Counseling in addition to Clinical Pastoral Education. Before joining The Arc Westchester’s Guardianship program, Ms. Ende worked for OPWDD for 33 years in the residential programs.

Anna Frankel completed degrees in Psychology from both Boston College and New York University and has experience in a variety of settings with diverse populations. In 1981 she expanded her career into working with people with developmental disabilities at Wassaiac Developmental Center in Dutchess County NY as a member of the psychology department. In 1988 she left State service to enter the Voluntary sector to provide psychology services to ARC community based ICF’s in both Dutchess and Putnam Counties as well as for New Horizon’s Resources until accepting a full-time position at the Dutchess ARC where in 1994 she was named Director of the newly established Article 16 Clinic.

During the 25 years of her tenure as Director, the clinic became a vital resource for Behavioral Health Services in the community as well as a vibrant internship site for students seeking careers in psychology and social work. Anna was committed to recruiting staff with a range of therapeutic orientations that understood the benefits of utilizing creative approaches to treating people that frequently experience adversity and may not have the ability to express their feelings in words. Ms. Frankel was also an active member of the staff training department and taught a variety of classes promoting staff development and growth.

Upon her retirement from her role of Director of Clinic services Anna joined the Board of the Resilient Child Fund, Inc. started by a former Clinic therapist, as an opportunity to continue her commitment to her belief that all people, especially children, that have experienced trauma deserve to be understood and nurtured to create the resilience needed to become physically and emotionally healthy adults. In addition to remaining an active board member of Resilient Child Fund she continues to contract with the recently created Arc of the Greater Hudson Valley to do assessments for OPWDD eligibility and volunteers as a member of the Incident Review Committee.
Daniel Gallagher joined The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming in 2010, where he worked as a Social Worker and Behavior Intervention Specialist before being promoted in 2016 to his current role as Coordinator of Clinical Services. Under Daniel’s leadership, the Clinical Services team provides a multidisciplinary approach to health care for adults, including Nutrition Services, Occupational and Physical Therapy, Psychological Services, Nursing, Social Work, and Speech-Language Pathology.

Daniel has a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Binghamton University, and additional certifications or specialized training in areas such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Ukrer/Trauma Informed Care, and Strategies for Crisis Intervention and Prevention-Revised (SCIP-R). Outside of work, he enjoys golf, fishing, hiking, and spending time with his wife and two wonderful little girls. Daniel and his family live in Scottsville, NY.

Heidi Weiss is a licensed social worker and health advocate whose professional focus has been providing supportive services to individuals and families facing serious, chronic debilitating and life limiting illness through a palliative lens. Through her position at Westchester Jewish Community Services, she counsels families and individuals through the trajectories of these illnesses.

Ms. Weiss created support groups for individuals living with chronic illness; for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults who are experiencing anticipatory grief and bereavement, and most recently for caregivers of loved ones with a dementia diagnosis. In addition, she spearheads a community-based project to educate and empower individuals to engage in discussions of end of life wishes, and the importance of completing important documents that will ensure the fulfillment of those wishes. She offers other programs throughout the Westchester community including “How to Make the Most of Your Doctor Visit” and “Getting Your House in Order.”

Additionally, she has held an adjunct faculty position for Fordham Graduate School of Social Services, the Sarah Lawrence College Master’s Program in Health Advocacy and most recently the NYU Silver School of Social Work.

Ms. Weiss holds a Master’s degree of Social Work from UCONN, a Master’s degree of Health Advocacy from Sarah Lawrence College and a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from S.U.N.Y. Buffalo. Currently, she sits on the Board of the Westchester End of Life Coalition; the Collaborative for Palliative Care of Westchester; Advisory Board, Montefiore Center for the Aging Brain and the Alzheimer’s Collaborative.

In her spare time, Ms. Weiss raises and trains puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.
Zoom Registration Link

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Apr 15, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvfumpjrjgvEtNa1x9mOmixiKZfysrDA-D9

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.