

# DEBORAH GOLDEN ALECSON

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**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**

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

*I currently teach an undergraduate course in medical humanities that I designed for The School of Liberal Arts.  
I have been teaching “Ethics of Health Care” and “Death, Dying and Bereavement” for the Schools of Health, Science and Nursing.*

**Past Employment:** **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**  
Pittsfield, 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:**

**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 Pittsfield, 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.*

**Lyme Disease Forum**

Great Barrington, MA

May 24, 2011

*I collaborated with Fairview Hospital to produce this forum and was part of a panel of physicians.*

**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**

*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.*

**Present  
Volunteer  
Work:**

**HospiceCare in the Berkshires**

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

*I am 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