

# THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE  
INFORMATION • INTERVENTION • HOPE

APRIL 7-9, 2016 • THE INN AT ST. JOHNS IN PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN



Death is  
*NOT* the  
Answer



FILM PREMIERE - APRIL 7, 2016 • 7:30 PM

**Keith Famie** - *Producer, Director*

[www.KevinsSong.org](http://www.KevinsSong.org)



## THE ANNETTE URSO RICKEL FOUNDATION

The vision of the Foundation is to provide opportunities for individuals to realize their potential as teachers in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. The mission is to enhance the quality of primary and secondary teachers by supporting their education. Dr. Rickel has been helping students realize their dreams for over a decade by motivating them to pursue teaching careers in these challenging fields.

Dr. Rickel is also a professor in the department of psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. Throughout her career, she has worked with children and families and directed research on early interventions. Her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health as well as the MacArthur and Kellogg Foundations.

Early in her career she was a professor in Michigan, and the director of two long-term projects involving the Detroit public school system.



Together, we support the valuable work of the Kevin's Song Mission.

We believe it is so important that we eliminate the suicide epidemic by raising public awareness and fostering preventive measures!



### THE BONNEY FORGE CORPORATION

Bonney Forge, founded in 1876, is a private, closely held family owned company with manufacturing operations in Mount Union, PA; Houston, TX; Shanghai, China; and Bergamo, Italy.

For more than a century, Bonney Forge has achieved manufacturing excellence through the detailed attention to customer's needs and producing consistently superior flow control products. Today, the Bonney Forge name is synonymous with quality that exceeds all industry standards.

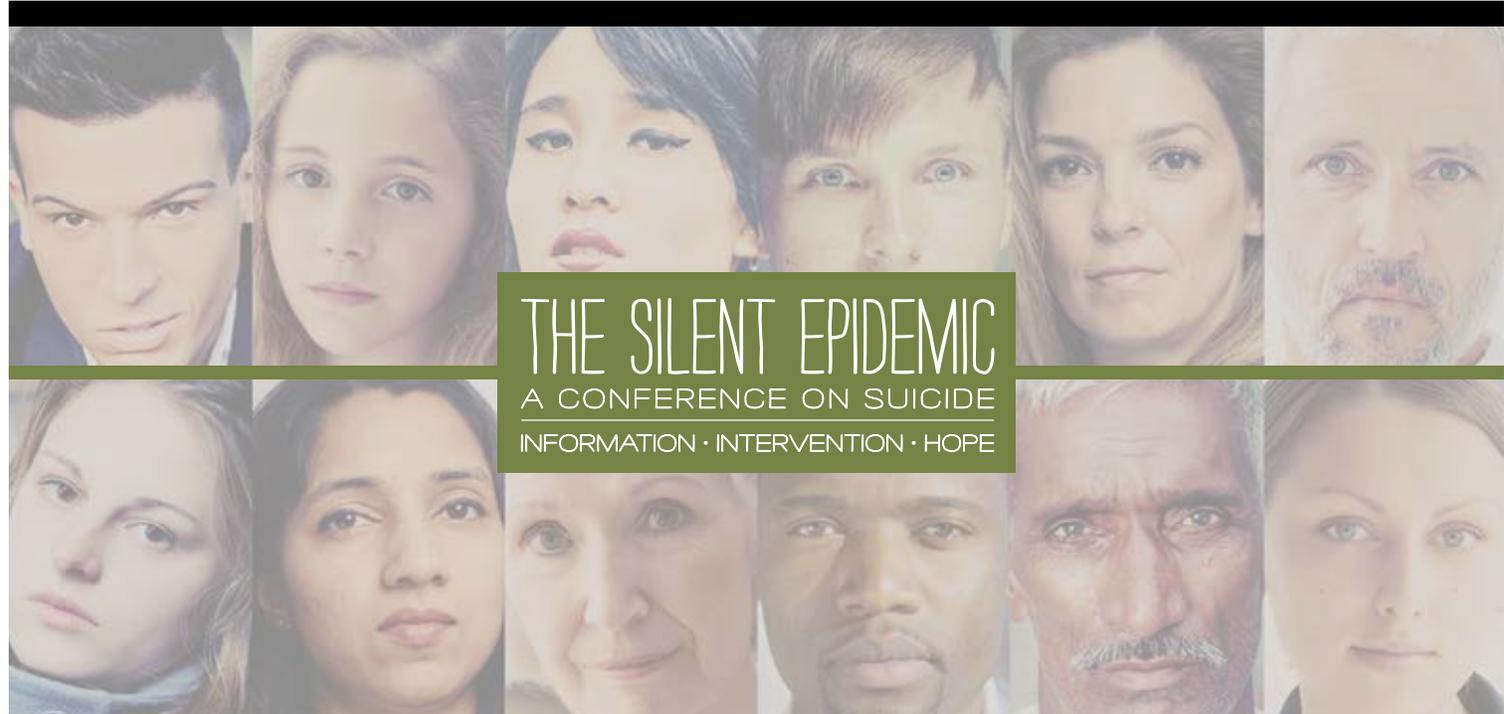
Bonney Forge serves multinational companies in the oil and gas, petrochemical, power generation, chemical manufacturing and general industrial piping industries.

The vision of the Foundation is to provide opportunities for individuals to realize their potential as teachers in the

STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. The mission is to enhance the quality of primary and secondary teachers by supporting their education. Dr. Rickel has been helping students realize their dreams for over a decade by motivating them to pursue teaching careers in these challenging fields.

Dr. Rickel is also a professor in the department of psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. Throughout her career, she has worked with children and families and directed research on early interventions. Her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health as well as the MacArthur and Kellogg Foundations.

Early in her career she was a professor in Michigan, and the director of two long-term projects involving the Detroit public school system.



**THE SILENT EPIDEMIC**  
 A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE  
 INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE

APRIL 7-9, 2016 · THE INN AT ST. JOHN'S IN PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Kevin's Song Introduction ..... 3                    | Film Premier Speakers ..... 26           |
| About Kevin's Song ..... 4                           | Title Page for Film ..... 27             |
| Letter from Co-Founders ..... 5                      | Film Production Overview..... 29         |
| Heartfelt Thanks..... 6                              | Sponsors of Film ..... 34                |
| Story of Kevin Urso ..... 7                          | About Keith Famie ..... 35               |
| Kevin's Song Sponsors..... 8                         | Conference Introduction..... 37          |
| Kevin's Song Donors..... 9                           | Conference Goals                         |
| A Letter from Fr. Ron Rolheiser..... 11              | General Information..... 38              |
| Letter from Thomas Joiner ..... 12                   | Continuing Education Credits             |
| <i>Suicide Lasts Forever</i> by Tom Watkins ..... 13 | Kevin's Song Supportive Staff..... 39    |
| <i>Mental Illness Stigma</i> by Deena Baxter..... 14 | Exhibitors Gallery..... 40               |
| <i>Suicide Prevention</i> by Tish Vincent ..... 15   | FRIDAY - Conference                      |
| Dennis Liegghio's Story ..... 17                     | Schedule of Events..... 43               |
| Pre-Conference Introduction..... 19                  | SATURDAY - Conference                    |
| Pre-Conference Goals ..... 20                        | Schedule of Events..... 51               |
| Article about Zero Suicide..... 21                   | Plenary and Breakout Room                |
| THURSDAY - Pre-Conference                            | Location Guide ..... 53                  |
| Schedule Events ..... 22                             | Map of Conference Center ..... 54        |
| Schedule of Film Premiere..... 23                    | Plenary Speakers and Presenters..... 55  |
| Pre-Conference                                       | Breakout Speakers and Presenters..... 59 |
| Speakers and Presenters..... 24                      |  |

# *Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority*



As the largest and most diverse CMH system in Michigan, the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA) is proud of our collaborations with the various organizations in the region. DWMHA is committed to providing quality healthcare and is on a clear path to being the premier community mental health service provider to the people we serve. We are committed to being consumer and community focused, data driven and evidence based.

Through programs and services that utilize promising best practices we hope to promote a community that is supportive and embraces individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorder. We offer supports in Infant Mental Health, Integrated Healthcare, Supportive Housing, and Recovery to support self-determination and improving the health and quality of life for more than 100,000 consumers and their families.



***Here to talk – Here to Help!***

**Our 24-hour help line provides crisis intervention, suicide prevention, mental health information and referrals: 800-241-4949 TDD: 866-870-2599**

**Or visit our website for additional information on programs and services**

**[www.dwmha.com](http://www.dwmha.com)**



<https://www.facebook.com/DWMHA>

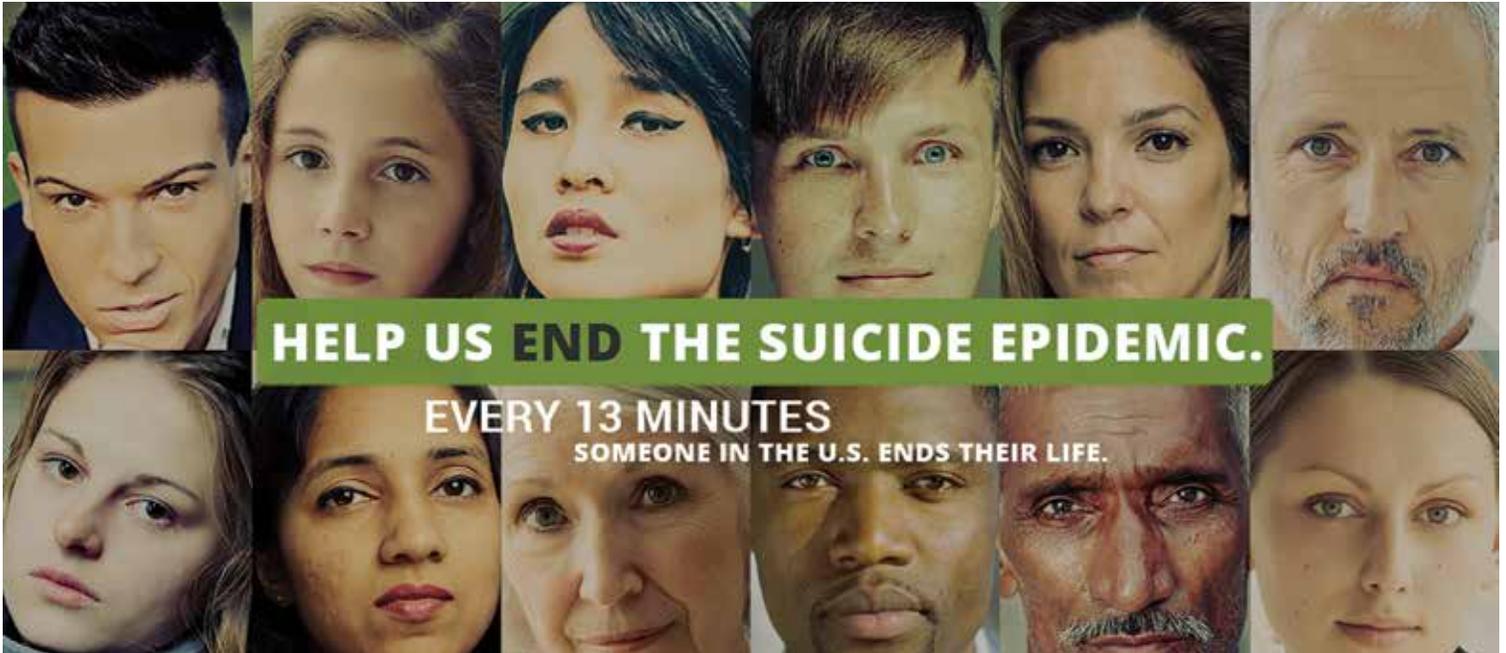


<https://twitter.com/dwmha>



*A charitable organization for  
community education on the causes  
and prevention of suicide.*

*Founded in memory of Kevin Urso*



John and Gail lost their oldest son, Kevin, to suicide in 2013. In their devastation, they started researching the facts about suicide – and among other things, they learned that someone in the United States loses their life to suicide every thirteen minutes.

With that kind of death rate, they knew that this cause was just too urgent to take things slowly. They dove in with both feet, eager to make a significant difference in as little time as possible. As a result, Kevin's Song was born.

“The Silent Epidemic: A Conference on Suicide” is an effort to bring the wide range of individuals and organizations that are working to prevent suicide together in one place, as well as to publicize the fact that suicide is an issue that must be talked about. Long term, it is the hope of Kevin's Song that bringing these different groups together will lead to relationships and collaborative efforts to prevent suicide across the board. At the same time, this conference will provide a place for people to start or continue healing from the trauma of losing a loved one like Gail and John lost their son.



# Taking Action

---

### **OUR MISSION — SUICIDE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION**

Kevin's Song is a charitable organization dedicated to generating public awareness about the causes of suicide, its prevalence in our society and possible preventive measures. As an organization, we want to create a working community of professionals and advocates that will become an important resource in the metropolitan Detroit area for offering knowledge, hope and healing to individuals, families and communities touched by suicide.

### **OUR PLAN — WHAT WE INTEND TO DO**

Kevin's Song will be a place where people can go to learn about the many excellent organizations that exist to help understand the causes of suicide as well as effective methods of preventing it. It will be a place where people can read about the latest research, read reviews of books on suicide as well as articles by experts in the field, and learn about support groups and activities taking place locally, nationally, and globally. Kevin's Song hopes to partner with mental health professionals like Henry Ford Health System Behavior Health Department, to bring innovation to the care and treatment of individuals haunted by the risk of self harm. Kevin's Song will work with other suicide prevention organizations to increase awareness, help eradicate the stigma of mental illness and, hopefully to save lives.

Through conferences, workshops, a documentary film and our website, information will be available in a way it has not been presented before. Kevin's Song will be a resource providing up-to-date information on the epidemic of suicide.

### **OUR THANKS — TO THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED**

We are very appreciative of the many donations, large and small, that we have received. It is because of these donations that we are able to fulfill our mission. Thank you to our Sponsors, especially the Dolores and Paul Lavins Foundation, which offered a \$50,000 challenge grant doubling the impact of our donors' gifts.



## A LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS:

Dear Friends:

When in March of 2013 Kevin, our oldest son, took his life at the age of 41, we were shocked and devastated. We, his brothers, Brian and Justin, his life partner, Deanna Quinn, his aunts, cousins and friends were not prepared for his death. There were and are so many unanswered questions.

In the aftermath of Kevin's death, many people reached out to express their sympathy, love, and support. We remain thankful and truly believe that it is because of this support that we have managed to get through this tragic loss of our son.

To help alleviate some of the pain of Kevin's death, we began to research and learn what we could about suicide. The facts were astounding:

- Suicide is an epidemic. One person takes their own life in the United States every 13 minutes.
- 41,000 people will end their lives this year in the United States.
- One person in the world takes his or her own life every 40 seconds.
- Suicide for people ages 35-64 is the fourth leading cause of death for that age group.

We also had no idea of the numbers of books and articles that have been written on the subject nor did we know of the many local, state and national organizations that exist to deal with suicide and the mental illnesses that often accompany it. We learned of groups that exist solely to support survivors of suicide. We are not sure, but, of course, will always wonder, had we known more about suicide, its causes and possible methods of prevention, might we have been able to help Kevin?

We will never know the answer to that question. We do know, however, that there is a great need to spread the word that suicide occurs among men and women of all ages, that it crosses all racial, ethnic and religious lines, and that it occurs at all economic levels of society. We also know that the general public needs to be more aware of the facts about suicide and mental illness. The stigma surrounding them must be erased so that individuals and families are comfortable seeking help just as they would for a physical illness.

We have founded **Kevin's Song**, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, to provide a place where the individuals, groups and organizations that devote their energy to studying the problems of mental illness and suicide can come together to share information and ideas with each other, with interested professionals, with the public and with the media. Our website [kevinssong.org](http://kevinssong.org); conferences, beginning with *The Silent Epidemic: A Conference on Suicide*; and the documentary film "Death is NOT the Answer" by award winning documentary film director and producer Keith Famie will be part of an ongoing forum designed to help us achieve our mission.

Please join with us to accomplish our mission of spreading the word that suicide is an epidemic and that we must do whatever we can to eradicate the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide. Thank you for your participation in this event. It is the first step to accomplishing our goal because we believe that together we can make a difference!

**Gail and John Urso**

Cofounders, Kevin's Song



## OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO:

### THE KEVIN'S SONG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

John R. Urso, *President*  
Gail M. Urso, *Vice-President*  
Kathleen McGovern,  
*Secretary*  
John Thomas McGovern,  
*Treasurer*  
Maura Corrigan

Linda B. Finkel  
Robert J. Finkel  
Susan M. Francis  
Peter King  
Sidney J. King  
Paul N. Lavins

John A. Leone  
Ann W. MacDonald  
Michael J. MacDonald  
Lynn E. Maitland, Ph.D.  
Leo A. Nouhan  
Annette U. Rickel, Ph.D.

### KEVIN'S SONG ADVISORY COUNCIL

---

Gigi Colombini, *LMSW  
Psychotherapist*  
Jean Larch,  
*Author "Dying to Be Free"*  
Dennis Liegghio,  
*Founder/President,  
KnowResolve*  
Kenneth J. Meisel, *LMSW*

Angela D'Agostini-Miller,  
*LMSW, School Social Worker*  
Peter Rageas,  
*General Counsel*  
Terri Singer, *CPA,  
Financial Advisor*  
Rabbi Daniel B. Syme,  
*Temple Beth El*

Amelia Lehto, *Resource and  
Crisis Helpline Coordinator  
and Suicide Prevention  
Specialist at Common Ground*  
Lawrence Wentworth, Ph.D.,  
*Licensed Psychotherapist  
and Clinical Supervisor,  
President and CEO of  
Wentworth & Assoc., P.C.*

### VOLUNTEERS

---

Conference Coordinator:  
Leo Nouhan  
Co-Chairs of the  
Premiere Reception:  
Sidney King and Kathey McGovern  
Co-Chairs of the Resource Area:  
Susan Francis and Kathy Walsh  
Co-Chairs of Volunteers:  
Ann Dissler and Judy Chauvin  
Coordinator of Speakers  
and Presenters:  
Nicole Jensen  
Coordinators of Continuing  
Education Credits:  
Kathy Ransome, Tracey McKinney,  
Irene Parsell, Mary Ellen White  
and Lynn Maitland

Coordinator of Registration:  
Mary Ellen White  
Mary Ellen Anglewicz  
Ellen Adelman  
Mary Bershback  
Jerry Burns  
Frances Carnaghi  
Sarah Emmerson  
Sarah Gough  
Katie Harr  
Suzan Harbin  
Linda Lawrence  
Miriam Moses

Annette Nouhan  
Sharon Nouhan  
Stephanie Nouhan  
Deanna Quinn  
Maria Riccobono  
Suzi Shepard  
Nancy Silveri  
Lynn Simlar  
Martell Stephens  
Sheila Turney  
Carrie Urso  
Justin Urso  
Tom Urso



# KEVIN FRANCIS URSO

8/15/1971 - 3/23/2013

**KEVIN FRANCIS URSO** was loved and respected for his quick wit, his intelligence, his sense of humor and his caring nature. For ten years he was a child care worker at the Children's Home of Detroit where he won the praise of the staff, board members and, most importantly, the children. Numerous young adult men would return to the Children's Home to thank Kevin for his kindness, firmness and humor in their interactions with him.

Others remember Kevin fondly for his love and care of animals. As a child he rescued numerous stray dogs and, as an adult, he delighted in caring for his own dogs as well as those of others.

His sense of humor was legendary. Many thought he could have had a career in stand-up comedy. Kevin also loved music and had a wonderful voice.

Sadly, Kevin also dealt with depression. On March 23, 2013, at the age of 41, Kevin ended his life at his home in Florida. He will be forever remembered and missed.

Hopefully, with the founding of Kevin's Song in memory and honor of Kevin and the documentary film, "Death is NOT the Answer", more open discussion about mental health issues and suicide will occur and lives will be saved.



## SPONSORS OF KEVIN'S SONG:

### FOUNDING SPONSOR:

The Dolores and Paul Lavins Foundation

### PRESENTING SPONSORS:

Henry Ford Health System

Bud and Donna Brian

Ann and Michael MacDonald

Dr. Annette U. Rickel and John A. Leone

The Tom & Kathey McGovern Family

Linda and Robert Finkel

Anonymous

### SUPPORTING SPONSORS:

Wentworth & Associates, PC

Mr. and Mrs. Gates Helms Hawn

### SPECIAL SPONSOR:

Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority

J. Scott Taylor

### CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

Jack and Annette Aronson

Honorable Maura Corrigan

Kathleen McGovern  
Studio of Interior Design

The Nouhan – Fikany Family

John and Gail Urso & Family

Assurex Health, Inc./GeneSight

Claire and Robert Brown

Tom and Ellen Calcaterra

Victor Calcaterra  
and Mary Scanlon

J. Peter and Sidney King

Martha and Michael Welch

St. John Providence

New Directions  
Behavioral Health

WDIV-TV4

Heinz C. Prechter  
Bipolar Research Fund

John and Barbara Jay

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sample

Linda and George Ellis  
& Family

Katie and Dave Elsila

Susan and Bill Francis

Scott and Molly Sutton

Julie and Dick Scott

Bette Joondeph

Don and Erica Lindow

Susan Smith

Kathy Walsh and  
Marty Peters

Doug and Tracy Blatt

Susan O'Rourke Hastings

Havenwyck Hospital

Northeast Guidance Center

Jane Vallee

Nativity of Our Lord Parish

Teamsters Local 299

Kadima

Judson Center

KnowResolve

Common Ground

Katrina Tagget Memorial  
Foundation

Katie MacDonald



## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS:

Tony and Katie DeCrescenzo  
John and Carole Dolan  
Ben and Tauna Donaldson  
Sue and Jim Eckel  
Christina Fink  
Andy Haines and Chad Carpenter  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hollerbach  
Emily and Zach Hunt  
Kate Kennedy  
Michael and Beverly Kohn  
Susan Konop  
Joe & Marie Ann Lucido  
Maureen Maitland & Rich Howley

Assurex Health, Inc./GeneSight  
Ellen and Cary Adelman  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Anderson  
Kitty Barnhart  
Don and Peg Barry  
Marianne Battani  
Ellen Burkhardt  
Joe and Jan Calcaterra  
Frances Pelham Carnaghi  
Kelli and Joe Carney  
John and Mary Carroll  
Melissa and Dan Carter  
Mike Caruso  
Bill and Helen Clay  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Colett  
Catherine Davis  
Peggy Delozier  
Dr. David DiChiera  
Judy Dupre  
Sandy and Ron Eisenbeis

John McSorley  
John and Lylas Mogk  
Robert and Heather Niven  
Others First  
Kevin Parikh - Alishaan Parikh, L.L.C.  
Jeff and Cynthia Pepper  
Debbie and Stu Pettitt  
Terri Singer  
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Tessler  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wagner  
Mary Ellen White  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph B. Wortman

Karen and Doug Ferguson  
Sandra Fisher  
Liz Fitzgerald  
Chris Flynn  
Gina Gabel  
Shelley and Jeff Garland  
Patricia Gill & Fred Schwehofer  
Bill Giovan  
James and Marlin Glaspie  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Granger  
Linda Gregory  
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Guelich  
Sally and Tim Hannert  
Katie Harr  
Harvey and Diane Hauer  
Nancy and Al Hibbert  
Jerry and Denise Hickey  
Bunny and Jan Homan  
Elyse Jones  
Dave and Kate Judson  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation



## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS:

Mr. and Mrs. George Kossaras  
Linda Lawrence

Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis  
Charles V. Loznak  
Carol Lytle

Lynn E. Maitland  
Steve and Jen Marlette  
John Martin

Margaret and Paul McLaughlin  
Chris McLaughlin

Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Mercier  
Tom & Ann Mertz  
Sue Miller

Patricia Molitor

Kathy Moloney & Ed Egnatios  
Philip and Alice Osburn

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Quilter III  
Maria Riccobono

Mike Rinkel & Georgia Grovesteen  
Jack and Elaine Ryan  
Rose and Jim Ryan

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schaltenbrand

Nance and Kent Aitchison  
Mary Ellen Anglewicz  
Donna Bell

James and Barbara Bierbusse  
Susan Boyton

Karen and Wayne Bugis  
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Capp  
Sharon and Dallas Carrier  
Carolyn Cunningham  
Angela DeNavarre

Roger and Caroll Deuben  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth DiLaura  
Jackie DiSante

Chris and Sarah Emmerson  
Marion Fikany  
Kristen Foley  
Patty Forster

Ann Francis & Dan Barnowski  
Joan Gabrielson  
Lisa Gigliotti  
Rhoda Goldman  
Carol Gove  
Megan Grano

Marianne and Dan Grano  
Pamela Hammel  
Sr. Elaine Hartnett, O.S.  
Gretal Hollister

Josie and Jay Jackson  
Bob and Barbara Karle  
Carole Kelly

Karen Kienbaum  
Karen and Steve Kinsley  
Michelle & Tom Klippstein  
Barbara and Sheldon Larky

Nancy Silveri

Lynn and Mark Simlar  
Rita, Mike & Christine Sleeman  
Lucy and Jim Smith  
Veronica and Sam Smith  
Andrea and Charles Sullivan  
Ann Sullivan

Rabbi Daniel Syme  
David and Stacy Tanay  
Sandy Tanay

Nancy and Tony Tewes  
Susan Todebush  
Mary and Frank Urso

Sandy Urso  
Tom Urso

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Von Ende  
Peter and Cynthia Warner  
Bill and Chris Warren

Mary Lou and Rex White  
LeRoy and Marcia Wulfmeier  
Lucy and Victor Zelenak

William D. Lynch  
Anne and Dave Mocerri  
Karen and John Mucha  
Patty and David Mulkiten  
Sr. Beverly Pettke, O.S.

Eric Seiger, D.O.  
Albert J. Shinkel  
Sandra and James Turnbull  
David Urso  
Michael Urso

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wachter  
Jackie Weed  
Jim and Marie West  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Widgren  
Carolyn and Ed Wujek  
Debby Wolney  
Nina and Tom Zarro



# A LETTER FROM FATHER RON ROLHEISER

## SUICIDE - THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD OF ALL DEATHS

Death is always painful, but its pains are compounded considerably if its cause is suicide. When a suicide occurs, we aren't just left with the loss of a person, we're also left with a legacy of anger, second-guessing and fearful anxiety.

So each year I write a column on suicide, hoping that it might help produce more understanding around the issue and, in a small way perhaps, offer some consolation to those who have lost a loved one to this dreadful disease. Essentially, I say the same things each year because they need to be said. As Margaret Atwood once put it, some things need to be said and said and said again, until they don't need to be said any more. That's true of suicide.

What needs to be said, and said again, about it?

First of all that it's a disease and perhaps the most misunderstood of all diseases.

We tend to think that if a death is self-inflicted it is voluntary in a way that death through physical illness or accident is not. For most suicides, this isn't true. A person who falls victim to suicide dies, as does the victim of a terminal illness or fatal accident, not by his or her own choice. When people die from heart attacks, strokes, cancer, AIDS, and accidents, they die against their will. The same is true of suicide, except that in the case of suicide the breakdown is emotional rather than physical - an emotional stroke, an emotional cancer, a breakdown of the emotional immune system, an emotional fatality.

This is not an analogy. The two kinds of heart attacks, strokes, cancers, break-downs of the immune-system, and fatal accidents, are identical in that, in neither case, is the person leaving this world on the basis of a voluntary decision of his or her own will. In both cases, he or she is taken out of life against his or her own will. That's why we speak of someone as a "victim" of suicide.

Given this fact, we should not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of a suicide victim, believing (as we used to) that suicide is always an act of ultimate despair. God is infinitely more understanding than we are and God's hands are infinitely safer and more gentle than our own. Imagine a loving mother having just given birth, welcoming her child onto her breast for the first time. That, I believe is the best image we have available to understand how a suicide victim (most often an overly sensitive soul) is received into the next life.

Again, this isn't an analogy. God is infinitely more understanding, loving and motherly than any mother on earth. We need not worry about the fate of anyone, no matter the cause of death, who exits this world honest, over-sensitive, gentle, over-wrought, and emotionally-crushed. God's understanding and compassion exceed our own.

Knowing all of this, however, doesn't necessarily take away our pain (and anger) at losing someone to suicide. Faith and understanding aren't meant to take our pain away but to give us hope, vision, and support as we walk within it.

Finally, we should not unduly second-guess when we lose a loved one to suicide: "What might I have done? If only I had been there? What if...?" It can be too easy to be haunted with the thought: "If only I'd been there at the right time." Rarely would this have made a difference. Indeed, most of the time, we weren't there for the exact reason that the person who fell victim to this disease did not want us to be there. He or she picked the moment, the spot, and the means precisely so that wouldn't be there. Perhaps it's more accurate to say that suicide is a disease that picks its victim precisely in such a way so as to exclude others and their attentiveness. This should not be an excuse for insensitivity; especially towards those suffering from dangerous depression, but it should be a healthy check against false guilt and fruitless second-guessing.

We're human beings, not God. People die of illness and accidents all the time and all the love and attentiveness in the world often cannot prevent a loved one from dying. Suicide is a sickness. There are some sicknesses that all the care and love in the world cannot cure.

A proper human and faith response to suicide should not be horror, fear for the victim's eternal salvation, or guilty second-guessing about how we failed this person. Suicide is indeed a horrible way to die, but we must understand it (at least in most cases) as a sickness, a disease, an illness, a tragic breakdown within the emotional immune-system. And then we must trust, in God's goodness, God's understanding, God's power to descend into hell and God's power to redeem all things, even death, even death by suicide.

*Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas He can be contacted through his website, [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com). Facebook [www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser](http://www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser)*



## A LETTER FROM THOMAS JOINER

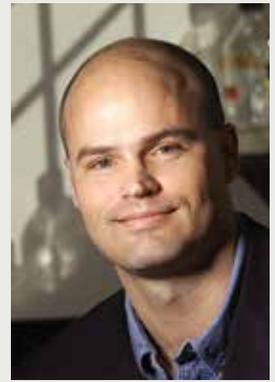
In my book *Why People Die By Suicide* (Harvard University Press, released January 2006), I attempt an ambitious thing – an answer to the question implied by the book’s title. The answer begins with two seemingly obvious assumptions: People die by suicide because they can, and because they want to. This would not be much of a theory, if the argument stopped here, because profound questions are begged, like “what differentiates those who can from those cannot?” and “among those who want to die by suicide, what are the constituents of the desire for death – pain, hopelessness, what?”

In answer to the first question, the theory asserts that lethal self-injury is associated with so much fear and pain that few people are capable of the act. The only ones who are capable of death by suicide are those who have been through enough past pain and provocation (especially involving intentional self-injury) to have habituated to the fear and pain of self-injury. Abundant empirical data are consistent with this view, but clinical and case data are persuasive as well. Fighting this battle repeatedly and in different domains instills the capacity to stare down the self-preservation instinct... should an individual want to.

In answer to the second question of who wants to, the theory argues that the constituents of the desire for death are *perceived burdensomeness and failed belongingness*. Here again, although there are compelling empirical data affirming the essential connection of these constructs to desire for death, the anecdotal and

case study evidence is at least as persuasive. For example, regarding failed belongingness, in his 2003 *New Yorker* article on suicide at the Golden Gate Bridge, Tad Friend quoted psychiatrist Jerome Motto on the suicide that affected him most. Motto said, “I went to this guy’s apartment afterward with the assistant medical examiner... He’d written a note and left it on his bureau. It said, ‘I’m going to walk to the bridge. If one person smiles at me on the way, I will not jump.’” Regarding perceived burdensomeness, as reported on the news website Ananova.com in 2004, an elderly Malaysian couple died by suicide by jumping from the fifteenth floor of their apartment building, specifically because they did not want to be a burden on their family. Their suicide note read “If we had waited for our death due to sickness, we would have caused much inconvenience to all of you.” There are dozens of anecdotes like this which, when combined with the empirical evidence, point to perceived burdensomeness and failed belongingness as central components of the desire for death.

So who can die by suicide? Who wants to? The three factors noted above are proposed as answers to these questions. Who can? Those who, through habituation as well as genetic factors, have acquired the capability to enact lethal self-injury. Who wants to? Those who perceive that they are a burden on loved ones and that they do not belong to a valued group or relationship..



# TOM WATKINS: SUICIDE LASTS FOREVER



Suicide is godawful. It snuffs out precious life and leaves a wake of agony for those left behind. I know the pain all too well, as both my older and younger brothers took their own lives.

Writing these words are painful as it conjures up the memories of better times with my two siblings, the jokes, laughter, fights and enjoyment of the simplest pleasure of life. Now, they are gone and all I have are the memories.

There is even a tinge of shame and stigma associated with admitting this ugly family secret. This stigma, and yes I have to admit it is there — hurts as well. Stigma is a major barrier in getting people the mental health care they need.

I am a professional in the behavioral health field serving formerly as Michigan's state mental health director and currently as the president and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority. I know better; but admit the fear, embarrassment, shame, and judgment still clings to me like cheap cigar smoke in a darkened bar. We need to defeat this stigma.

I have spoken of the clinical causes of the disease that kills and have written about suicide, depression, mental health, substance abuse and other symptoms. With the support and leadership of the Flinn Foundation ([www.flinnfoundation.org](http://www.flinnfoundation.org)), we helped produce two documentaries: "Opening Minds, Ending Stigma" ([www.dwmha.com](http://www.dwmha.com)) to help educate people about what to do and where to turn.

Yet, it is not enough. Suicide kills 38,000 Americans each year translating into about 104 deaths by suicide a day, or one every 12 to 13 minutes. We must do more as a society to let people know there is both hope and help available. In 2014, suicide was the 10th leading cause of all death in the U.S., the 2nd for youths aged 15-24, and 4th for adults aged 18-65.

Mental illness impacts every zip code — it is an equal opportunity disease. Mental illness does not impact "those" people, it is not simply a statistic to recite — it impacts our mothers, fathers, sisters, brother and our sons and daughters.

I have witnessed, through my brothers' struggles, the joys when they were ready for help and the systems was there to help them. I have also felt the pain as their disease prevented them from availing themselves to help — or worse yet, when a bureaucratic system let them down. We can and must do better.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF

Over the last couple years, the authority I lead has achieved the ambitious goal of training more than 10,000

citizens in mental health first aid. This special free training is made available and equips people with the knowledge of the potential risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, trauma, psychosis and psychotic disorders, substance use disorders, and self-injury. It also provides trainees with the skills, resources and knowledge to assess a situation, select and implement appropriate interventions, and help the individual in crisis connect with professional care.

The range of individuals trained through the authority includes teachers, youth, veterans, families, students, faith-based community members, social service providers, Spanish-speaking communities, and the general public. Recently we also began a mental health first aid instructor training for first responders in Wayne County. Our efforts were recently acknowledged on a nationwide level receiving the Community Impact Award from the National Council for Behavioral Health Council.

## DON'T DO IT

Suicide is irreversible. If you are contemplating suicide — "because today is the worse day of your life" — pause, knowing that if this is true, by definition tomorrow will be better.

Across Michigan your local public community mental health agencies are here to help. In Battle Creek, Summit Point and its 24-hour crisis line, 800-632-5449, is there for you.

No matter what problems you are dealing with, people are there to give you reasons to keep living. By calling the National Suicide Prevention Network 1-800-273-TALK (8255) you'll be connected to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center in your area, anytime 24/7.

Knowing where to turn and who to call can save lives. Save these numbers, share them with your circle of friends and colleagues so that everyone knows where to turn if they or someone they love are so desperate, distraught or ill that they are contemplating taking their own life.

Suicide kills. As a community, we are the ingredients that can help save lives. Know that you are important, someone loves you and their heart will ache with your loss. Pause, call and live.

*Tom Watkins is the president and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority. Follow Watkins on twitter @tdwatkins88*



# MENTAL ILLNESS STIGMA:

## CANARIES IN THE COALMINES

By Deena Baxter

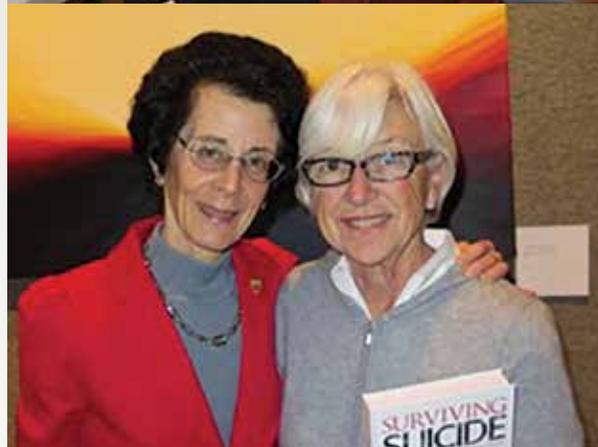
Dead canaries alerted mine workers that highly toxic, odorless gases were present in coalmines. The stigma of mental illness is similarly odorless, invisible, but highly toxic. Too many of our children, spouses, friends and colleagues end up succumbing to the toxins. They die by suicide, death by mental illness, because the stigma of mental illness keeps it shrouded in darkness and prevents us from seeing the reality of a broken system. Meanwhile, our loved ones' bodies cover the landscape.

I've lived this story: our youngest adult son, Kevin, died from bipolar disorder. Living with someone with mental illness rocks the patient's world, the family's world, and destabilizes the family's DNA. When our family love-boat listed to port each time Kevin was in crisis, we rushed to starboard, hoping to right the ship. The Coast Guard didn't respond to our Mayday calls: broken minds don't register on radar even when waves of chaos crashed over the deck. Frantically we bailed water but eventually the ship capsized. Kevin left behind a grieving wife, his father and me (his stepmother), and our other sons and their families.

For years we faced the stigma of mental illness: I experienced how denial plays out when the patient, the family and society collude to maintain the status quo. In reality, the family is left in tatters, struggling to make sense of it all. The stigma influences how we write the obituaries, using euphemisms: "he died unexpectedly," "she left us all too soon". Our beautiful, broken loved one becomes a statistic, a "suicide completer": a number with no name, no face. We cringe when we hear the phrase, "They committed suicide", associating it with a criminal act when in reality our loved one acted out of intense despair and desperation.

Since that day, I have moved forward, anchored on a foundation of three building blocks: the arts, community and meditation. It has helped me stay grounded while helping our family navigate through the sudden loss of a child plus the stigma that accompanies suicide and mental illness. It has helped me define what is my responsibility — to Kevin, to my family, and to myself.

Thanks to The Kevin's Song Foundation for inviting me to be the breakfast speaker at 8:00am on Saturday, April 9. I look forward to sharing my journey as together we embrace hope and healing for individuals, families and communities touched by suicide.



# SUICIDE PREVENTION: RAISING AWARENESS, GENERATING HOPE

By Trish Vincent

I remember the heat that July day in Northern Michigan. Traverse Bay was deep blue as I drove my toddler to the emergency room, her six and nine year old brothers in tow. She had communicated quite clearly to me that she had stuffed a popcorn kernel up her nose and I could not get it out. I was frightened and saw this as an emergency. I entered a scene of chaos and pain carrying my little girl, my sons holding hands beside me. One of the emergency room physicians was brought in by ambulance. He had crashed his car into a tree at a high rate of speed. The grief and helplessness were palpable in the rooms and hallways. Nurses and doctors were crying and wandering about dazed once he was declared dead.

They talked amongst themselves within earshot of those of us waiting. His emotional problems had made him difficult to work with. They were devastated by his death. This man, this healer, this physician, working every day of his life in the presence of other healers had taken his life without reaching out to any of the others for help. They felt certain the accident was suicide.

How do we educate about depression, mental illness, substance abuse and suicide in a manner that allows a professional person to turn to another and admit that they need help?

## HOPELESS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention list the following risk factors for suicide.

A combination of individual, relational, community, and societal factors contribute to the risk of suicide. Risk factors are those characteristics associated with suicide—they may or may not be direct causes.

## RISK FACTORS

- Family history of suicide
- Family history of child maltreatment
- Previous suicide attempt(s)
- History of mental disorders, particularly clinical depression
- History of alcohol and substance abuse
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Impulsive or aggressive tendencies
- Cultural and religious beliefs (e.g., belief that suicide

is noble resolution of a personal dilemma)

- Local epidemics of suicide
- Isolation, a feeling of being cut off from other people
- Barriers to accessing mental health treatment
- Loss (relational, social, work, or financial)
- Physical illness
- Easy access to lethal methods
- Unwillingness to seek help because of the stigma attached to mental health and substance abuse disorders or to suicidal thoughts
- Mental health treatment is often misunderstood. People hesitate to access treatment because they feel that others will judge them. In truth, accessing treatment indicates that a person has the courage to admit to another human being that they are struggling. Mental health providers are highly trained to offer empathy and understanding to their clients. They spend years learning why this is necessary, how to actively listen effectively, how to understand, and how to support the person seeking help in finding their solution.



## PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Effective clinical care for mental, physical, and substance abuse disorders.
- Easy access to clinical interventions and support for seeking help.
- Family and community support.
- Support from ongoing medical and mental health care relationships.
- Skills in problem solving, conflict resolution, and nonviolent ways of handling disputes.
- Cultural and religious beliefs that discourage suicide and support instincts for self-preservation.

When an individual is struggling with feelings of depression it is imperative that they go to someone they trust and speak openly about how they are feeling. Just the act of sharing the depression and despair that accompanies it can lessen the depression a bit. The listening person can help identify options and assistance that the depressed person cannot see.



# SUICIDE PREVENTION: RAISING AWARENESS; GENERATING HOPE

## SURVIVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE TO SUICIDE

SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) advises the survivors of a loved one's suicide that it is okay to:

- Grieve
- Cry
- Laugh

It is of critical importance that survivors who have lost someone to suicide hear, read, and remember that this final act is something over which the survivor has no control.

## THE LIGHT OF DAY

Though these are difficult topics it is so important to talk about depression and suicide. Human beings struggle with these matters. To be human is to face being depressed at times. Starting and maintaining conversations and awareness of suicide can save lives and ease suffering.

Having a professional degree is no protection against emotional and mental problems. In fact research has

shown that individuals with professional degrees often suffer more with emotional and mental problems and are more hesitant to seek help than the general population. They fear their reputations and career will be damaged if they are seen as weak. They fear that they will get in trouble with licensing boards and disciplinary systems so they try to cope on their own. This has proven to be a disastrous choice.

The most important thing we can offer one another regarding depression and suicide is open discussion of the realities of depression and suicide. These troubles exist. They are medical and psychological illnesses. Trained professionals are there to help if they are allowed. Most often intervention enables the sufferer to establish some helpful patterns that address the symptoms of the illness and result in improvement. Some percentage of people with these illnesses will have a fatal outcome and we must accept this and work to deal with the aftermath in the most healthy way possible.



**STJOHN  
PROVIDENCE**

| *Believe in better* |

**STJOHNPROVIDENCE.ORG**

Working together  
for suicide prevention.



A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee  
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



## DENNIS LIEGGHIO'S STORY

I was 14 years old when my dad died by suicide and my last words to him were in anger. We were riding around in his car, fighting about math (a common argument) and he started screaming at me. I had never heard him scream like that before. I got angry, I got scared and when we got back to his house, I called my mom and asked her to come and pick me up – my parents had been divorced since I was seven. When she pulled into the driveway, I ran out the front door and screamed "I HATE YOU! AND I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!" Those were the last words I would ever say to him.



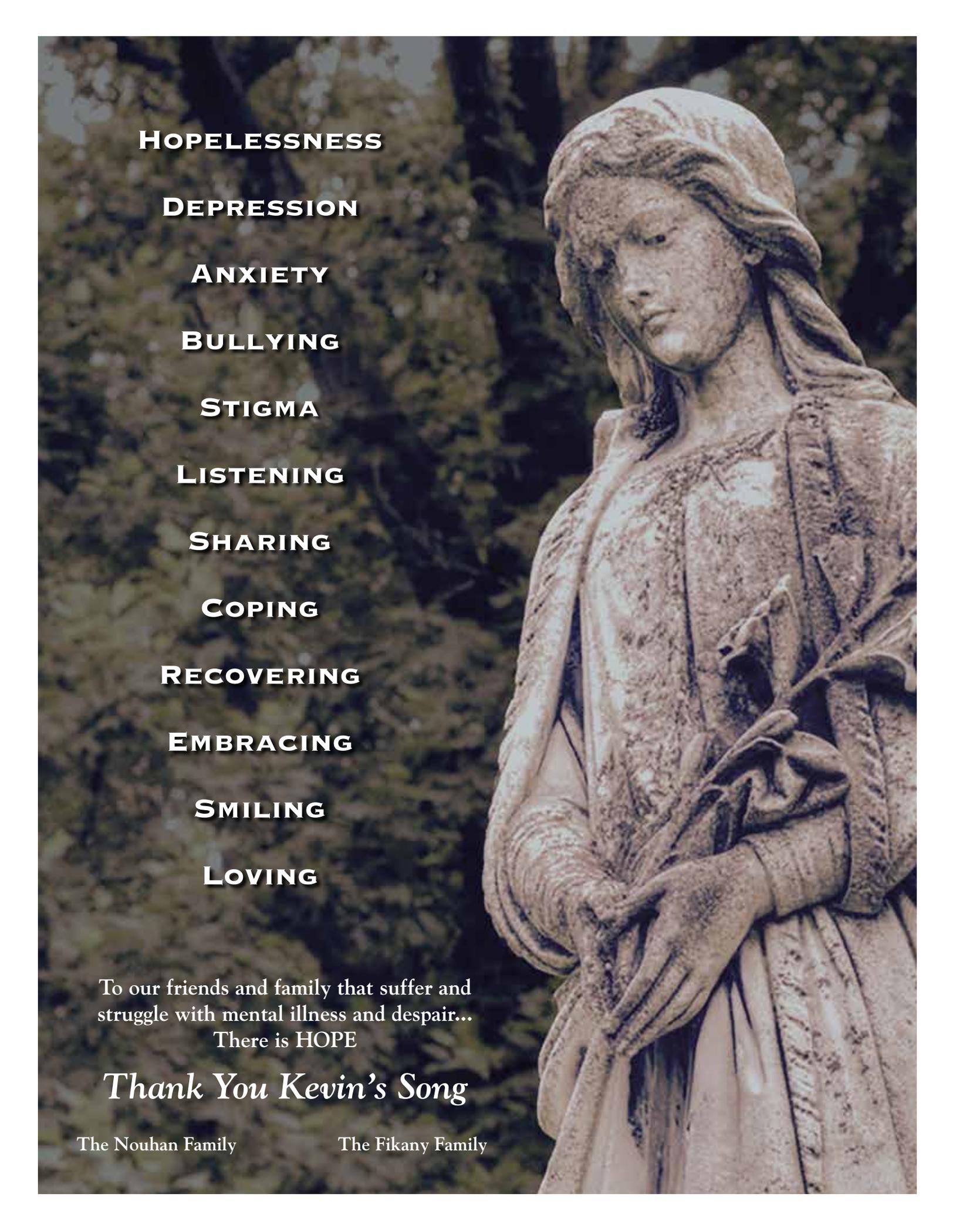
For a decade or more I blamed myself for his death despite everyone telling me that it wasn't my fault. It's how I felt, it's what I believed, and it's what I carried with me and kept bottled up inside. I felt alone, angry, guilty, filled with shame and doubt, depressed, suicidal. You would never know any of it by looking at me. I abused drugs and alcohol because it made more sense to be numb than to be in pain all the time. The problem with that of course is that you can't numb the bad without numbing the good and soon enough I felt empty. Dead inside. And then I wrote a song that changed my life.

Sitting at home one night I was fumbling around on my guitar and these lyrics popped into my head, and some chords came together, and without even thinking about what I was doing I had written a song about my father, and his death, and all the complicated feelings that I had bubbling inside of me. I had found a voice for the pain and way to express myself. So I kept writing. I started a band. I traveled around and made music with my friends and met people who changed my life forever. I discovered purpose and passion again, and I learned that while I may never "get over this", I will get through it, and I can make something good out of it.

Eventually I was inspired to raise awareness about suicide through this song and my story and so in 2007, with help from family, friends and community, KnowResolve was born. Nine years later I have shared my song, story, and mission with more than 100,000 teens and young adults throughout Michigan and a few more states beyond hoping that some will take the message that with help comes hope to heart.



wentworth  
& associates p.c.



**HOPELESSNESS**

**DEPRESSION**

**ANXIETY**

**BULLYING**

**STIGMA**

**LISTENING**

**SHARING**

**COPING**

**RECOVERING**

**EMBRACING**

**SMILING**

**LOVING**

To our friends and family that suffer and  
struggle with mental illness and despair...  
There is HOPE

*Thank You Kevin's Song*

The Nouhan Family

The Fikany Family



*A charitable organization for  
community education on the causes  
and prevention of suicide.  
Founded in memory of Kevin Urso*

# THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

## A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE

---

INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE

PRE-CONFERENCE · THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016

Presented in partnership with the Behavior Health Department of Henry Ford Health System, Kevin's Song presents a panel presentation on the Henry Ford Perfect Depression Care, Zero Suicide Initiative. This discussion by a team of Henry Ford mental health professionals will provide insight into assessing and treating those identified at risk for suicide in a system-wide approach aimed at reducing suicide deaths. The impact of suicide on medical professionals will also be featured in an effort to "treat the treater" following a suicide loss.



THE SILENT EPIDEMIC  
A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE  
INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE

## PRE-CONFERENCE GOALS:

Multiple presenters from Henry Ford Health System focus on its Perfect Depression Care, Zero Suicide Initiative and its application in hospital and primary care environments.

According to Doree Ann Espritu, M.D., Henry Ford Health Systems, "When people ask, can you really expect to prevent all suicides? Our consistent response is, we have to try. . ."

Sessions are aimed at Medical ED personnel (intake, triage, nurses); ED and Psych residents and Medical students; ED physicians, Primary Care Physicians, Mental Health Professionals (social workers, psychologists) First Responders and will cover:

- The suicide epidemic – facts and information
- The HFHS Zero Suicide Initiative – Intervention methods
- How to collaborate on identifying individuals at risk
- Dealing with grief of loss

A pre-conference workshop for first responders conducted by Saginaw Survivors of Suicide founder Barb Smith, will cover topics including assessing for suicide risk while on a call, suggestions for notifying family members of a death by suicide, and how to identify and deal with the factors that put law enforcement professionals at risk for suicide.



WOMEN TRAPPED IN INDIA'S SEX TRADE ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE A JOB AND FIND FREEDOM AND DIGNITY.

freeset

PROMOTE YOUR CAUSE, EVENT OR ORGANIZATION WITH CUSTOMIZABLE ECO-FRIENDLY FREESET BAGS & T-SHIRTS.  
[www.freesetglobal.com](http://www.freesetglobal.com)

For more info contact Raj Madhavan: [bizdev@freesetusa.com](mailto:bizdev@freesetusa.com)

## Amazing Bipolar Discoveries

The vision of our premier research program is to personalize treatment of bipolar disorder and prevent recurrences to enable those with the illness to lead healthy and productive lives.

**M** DEPRESSION CENTER  
HEINZ C. PRECHTER BIPOLAR RESEARCH FUND  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

[PrechterFund.org](http://PrechterFund.org)

# THE DECLARATION OF ZERO SUICIDE IN HEALTHCARE

By Doree Ann Espiritu M.D.

In 2001, Henry Ford Health System's Behavioral Health Services (BHS) responded to a challenge issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to "pursue perfect care." This challenge came shortly after the publication of a report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), "Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century." The report praised advances in medical science and the skill, dedication and self-sacrifice of healthcare workers. At the same time, it indicted the healthcare industry for not translating those strengths into meaningful care for every patient. This report identified depression and anxiety disorders as a "priority condition" that needed immediate attention and improvement.

Using the IOM's "Six Aims and Ten Rules" to develop a clear vision of "perfect care," BHS identified several goals. They required Perfect Depression Care to be safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable.

In a bold move, BHS proposed to eliminate suicide as one measure of perfect care. At that time, perfection and a zero-defect goal was considered too ambitious and audacious by many, but this did not stop BHS in its pursuit of perfect care.

BHS decided that the status quo was no longer acceptable and radical change was necessary. Practice and process improvements changed the

way the department approached depression care and suicide. Suicide was no longer a medical taboo and if a suicide did occur, employees felt supported. They started to embrace root-cause analyses to find ways to better care for patients. BHS became a blame-free and just culture, free of finger-pointing.

In this culture, team members owned safety and quality with complete freedom to speak up. This effort reduced Henry Ford's suicide death rate by more than 75 percent and was the first systematic effort to eliminate suicide in a healthcare system. Several healthcare systems in the United States and other countries have since adopted some or all features of the Zero-Suicide initiative and have shown excellent results.

In September 2015, *The Declaration of Zero Suicide in Healthcare* was developed by experts from 13 countries including Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and the United States.

While there is much to celebrate because of the success and global impact of this program, BHS and Henry Ford Health System will continue their quest for perfection and will continue to share their learnings with the greater community. Zero-Suicide is a goal that cannot be accomplished by one team or one organization alone, but by the entire healthcare community moving toward this important measure of perfect care.



# PRE-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

## Thursday, April 7, 2016

### PLENARY SESSIONS – ZERO SUICIDE

Judea Room

#### 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

- 7:30 am - 8:00 am      Registration
- 8:00 am - 8:15 am      Introductions – **John Urso, Co-Founder, Kevin’s Song**
- 8:15 am - 9:15 am      **Doree Ann Espiritu M.D., Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services’ Perfect Depression Care: A Model for Eliminating Suicides & Mental Healthcare Transformation**  
*In this presentation, Dr. Doree Ann Espiritu will describe the journey that led to the development of a model that led to the Zero Suicide Initiative and the spread of perfect depression care in Henry Ford Primary Care Clinics.*
- 9:15 am - 10:00 am      **Brian Ahmedani Ph.D., LMSW, Henry Ford Behavioral Health**  
*“The Zero Suicide Model: Implementation, Improvement, and Research.”*  
Testing and skill based training to assess and respond to suicide risk. Statistical research on Zero Suicide Initiative
- 10:15 am - 11:00 am      **Jennifer M. Peltzer-Jones Psy.D., R.N, Henry Ford Behavioral Health**  
*“In case of an Emergency, go to the nearest ED”*  
Emergency Department identification of suicide risk and management
- 11:00 am - 11:45 am      **Kelly M. Rogalski, M.D., Henry Ford Behavioral Health**  
*“Teen Suicide: identifying risk and responding”*  
This talk will include risk identification as it applies to teens and how we designed and implemented a systematic process for both risk stratification and safety planning at Henry Ford
- Noon - 1:00 pm      **LUNCH - Philip J. Lanzisera, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Henry Ford Behavioral Health**  
*“The Silent Victim – Impact of Patient Suicide on Providers”*

# PRE-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

## FIRST RESPONDER'S WORKSHOP

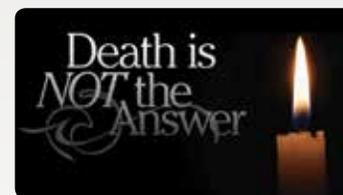
Wisdom Room

### Noon to 3:30 pm

Noon - 3:00 pm Join Pre-conference attendees for lunch and a presentation by **Philip J. Lanzisera, Ph.D, Henry Ford Behavioral Health**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm First Responder's Training Workshop – **Barb Smith**  
*Barb will discuss the warning signs and risk factors of suicide to help when investigating and working with families at a scene, recommendation on delivering a death notification, and discussion of what puts law enforcement at risk for suicide. This presentation will leave you with tools to work that "unthinkable" uncomfortable scene of a suicide.*

## DOCUMENTARY FILM PREMIERE



### 6:00 to 9:00 pm

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm **PREMIERE RECEPTION**  
*Includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by the film presentation and dessert in Master Ballroom. This is an opportunity to meet and network with the conference speakers, presenters, sponsors and guests.*

Garden Gallery

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm **FILM PREMIERE ONLY**  
*Ticket includes 1 drink ticket, cash bar, film presentation and dessert.*

Grand Ballroom

7:30 pm Welcome by **John Urso, Co-Founder, Kevin's Song**  
Master of Ceremonies, **Frank McGeorge, M.D., Medical Consultant WDIV TV4 and Emergency Physician at Henry Ford Hospital**

Opening Remarks by **Maura Corrigan**, currently a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where she studies and evaluates programs related to child welfare, child support, food assistance and disability. Former Director of the Michigan Department of Human Services and Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

8:00 pm Presentation of documentary film  
**"Death is NOT the Answer"** – Director and Executive Producer, **Keith Famie**  
*Working closely with Rabbi Daniel Syme of Temple Beth El, Dennis Liegghio, Founder/President of Know Resolve, and "Kevin's Song," a Metropolitan Detroit based nonprofit organization, Death is Not the Answer will tackle tough issues through real-life stories that will allow the audience to gain a better understanding of depression, as well as the tragic outcome of suicide.*

9:00 pm Coffee and dessert

THE SILENT EPIDEMIC  
A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE  
INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE

## PRE-CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS:

### DOREE ANN V. ESPIRITU, M.D.



*Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services' Perfect Depression Care: A Model for Eliminating Suicides & Mental Healthcare Transformation*

Dr. Espiritu is the Interim Chair of the Henry Ford Behavioral Services Outpatient Department and the Service Chief of Psychiatry of the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital. She is board-certified in both Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry. In addition to her administrative role, she maintains an active practice seeing adult and geriatric patients in the outpatient setting and in long-term care settings as well. Dr. Espiritu finished her psychiatry residency in Adult Psychiatry at the Henry Ford Health System Psychiatry Residency and then went on to do a fellowship in Geriatric Psychiatry at Wayne State University. She is a member of the Professional Advisory Board of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation and also is a member of the Grassroots Advocacy for the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry. She is also the Immediate Past President of the Philippine Medical Association of Michigan. She has received numerous awards including the Henry Ford Health System Shadow of the Leader, the Dr. Joseph Ponka Caring Physician of the Year and has been an Hour Detroit "Top Doc" in Psychiatry since 2009-2015. Dr. Espiritu's special interests are issues in Geriatric Psychiatry, Dementia, Successful Aging, Behavioral Health Integration In Primary Care, and Spirituality in Psychiatry.

### DR. BRIAN AHMEDANI, Ph.D., LMSW



*Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services - "The Zero Suicide Model: Implementation, Improvement, and Research."*

Dr. Brian Ahmedani is Director of Psychiatry Research and a Research Scientist at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, MI. Dr. Ahmedani leads several large research projects and has authored

numerous articles on suicide prevention and other mental health and substance use conditions. He is Chair of the Mental Health Research Network Suicide Prevention Scientific Interest Group and is a core Advisory Group Member of the National Zero Suicide Initiative.

### JENNIFER M. PELTZER-JONES, Psy.D, RN



*Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services - "In case of an Emergency, go to the nearest ED"*

Originally from Philadelphia, Dr. Peltzer is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Health

Psychology division of APA, and of the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry.

She graduated from De Sales University in Allentown, PA with a Bachelor's in Nursing with a minor in Psychology then went on to Millersville University for a Master of Science Degree in Clinical Psychology and finally returned to Philadelphia in 1999 to pursue her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (PsyD) at La Salle University.

Hired on as the first Senior Staff Psychology for the Henry Ford Emergency Department in 2008 and has published and presented on topics such as frequent ED use interventions, integration with community mental health services, and quality improvement.

Most recently, she has been working closely with the administration of Henry Ford Health System to improve Emergency Department experiences for patients in psychiatric distress.

## PRE-CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS:

### KELLY ROGALSKI, M.D.



*Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services - "Teen Suicide: Identifying Risk and Responding"*

Dr. Rogalski trained in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Michigan, and then began her career at

Henry Ford Health System as a senior staff pediatric psychiatrist and medical director of outpatient pediatric psychiatry. She has an interest in teen suicide, program development and integrated behavioral health care. Dr. Rogalski is recognized by her peers as one of Metro Detroit's Hour Magazine "Top Docs" in pediatric psychiatry in 2014 & 2015. She has an outpatient practice at the Henry Ford Columbus Center in Novi.

### PHILIP J. LANZISERA, Ph.D., CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, HFHS



*Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services - "The Silent Victim - Impact of Patient Suicide on Providers"*

Philip J Lanzisera, Ph.D., ABPP received his Ph.D in Clinical Psychology at the Univeristy of Detroit. He then went on

to complete clinical internships at Children's Center of Wayne County and North Oakland Community Mental Health/Clinton Valley Center. Dr. Lanzisera serves as a supervisor for residents for their long term patients. He also plays a large role in teaching psychotherapy to the residents in a series of didactic lectures. When asked why he enjoys working with residents, he responded with "as I have gotten older and gained more experience, I've come to realize that I could have been a much better clinician had I had the experience and knowledge I now have. Working with psychiatric residents and psychology interns gives me hope that what I have learned will give someone else a head start in the process of becoming a good clinician. I like to share my enjoyment of the clinical process and support others in gaining the confidence they need to enjoy it as well."

### BARB SMITH



*First Responder's Training Workshop*

Barb Smith is the founder and facilitator of the Saginaw Survivors of Suicide. This non-profit group has been supporting families and friends after a death to suicide for

the past 26 years. Barb also works with families and friends left behind after a death by suicide as a private grief and suicide consultant. Barb Smith is the founder and facilitator of the Saginaw Survivors of Suicide. This non-profit group has been supporting families and friends after a death to suicide for the past 26 years. Barb also works with families and friends left behind after a death by suicide as a private grief and suicide consultant. Barb is a published author of her personal story "Pain With a Purpose" in a book called i"MPOSSIBLE Project author Josh Rivedal.

Barb has received training and certifications from numerous experts in the field of suicide prevention, intervention and the aftermath of suicide. Including Bill Steele, Iris Bolton, Michael Nerney, AFSP, AAS, SPRC and many others. Barb serves as the on-call person for survivors of suicide and for local agencies as a consult and resource for the bereaved.

Barb has appeared in numerous interviews for television and newspaper articles including the Detroit Free Press, WNEM, ABC, MCTV and is quoted in published books.

Barb has been recognized as the "Saginawian" of the year; in 2003 she received the "Volunteer of the Year Award" from United Way; "Woman of the Year" from Zonta Club; and given awards for the work she has done in suicide prevention and intervention by the Michigan Association of Suicidology. She has accepted a "Personal Appreciation Award" from the Saginaw County Sheriff Department, as well as the "Distinguished Victims Services Award" by the State of Michigan for her work in the Advocacy program. Barb received the Humanitarian Award from JLMF in 2006. In 2008 she was the recipient of the "Hero Award" from the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority.

## FILM PREMIERE SPEAKERS:

### FRANK MCGEORGE, M.D.



*Henry Ford Hospital  
Emergency Physician and  
Medical Consultant for  
WDIV Channel 4*

*Master of Ceremonies,  
Premiere of the film,  
"Death is NOT the Answer."*

Dr. Frank McGeorge can be seen on Local 4 News at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. with Good Health reports. In addition to helping metro Detroiters with health concerns as a doctor on television, Dr. McGeorge is helping save lives every day in the emergency room at Henry Ford Hospital.

Dr. McGeorge began his medical career in Chicago at Northwestern University where he graduated with Alpha Omega Alpha honors in 1990. He trained in emergency medicine at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit where, he said, "It really was like the show 'ER.' Every day was a crazy drama by itself."

After residency he completed a research fellowship, focusing in the areas of critical care and resuscitation. Since then he has been busy as a practicing emergency physician with an active role in the community.

He is a past President of the Michigan chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, a Board of Directors Member of the Red Cross as well as a former member of the Board of directors for HAVEN, Oakland County's domestic violence advocacy organization. Dr. McGeorge is also on the editorial board and a reviewer for a number of medical publications.

Doctor McGeorge has been recognized for his activities with several Emmy Awards, Associated Press Awards for Journalism, Michigan Association of Broadcasters award, the Orthopedic MORE award for excellence in journalism, the American College of Emergency Medicine award for journalism excellence, the American Heart Association PULSE award and the Michigan State Medical Society award for excellence in healthcare reporting.

Before joining Local 4, he was for years, a frequent expert contributor to local and national news organizations on medical topics. He has received

numerous national and local awards for his teaching skills in the science and practice of medicine and formerly directed an Emergency Medicine Residency program.

### HON. MAURA CORRIGAN



*Opening Remarks,  
Premiere of the film,  
"Death is NOT the Answer."*

Maura Corrigan is a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where she studies and evaluates programs related

to child welfare, child support, food assistance and disability. In addition to her research and writing, she works with human services officials and leaders at the state level to make them aware of the latest federal policy developments and reform ideas relevant to social welfare policy. She also works to educate federal policymakers about promising state-level social services innovations.

Corrigan is a former chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court and a former first assistant US attorney for Detroit, Michigan. Before joining AEI, after a distinguished legal career, she served as director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, where she oversaw public assistance programs for low-income and vulnerable families and children in Michigan. Programs included food, cash, and medical assistance; foster care and adoption services; child support; and children's protective services. As director of the Department of Human Services, Corrigan oversaw a 66 percent reduction in the number of individuals dependent on cash welfare, rolled out an innovative program to help the disabled, and left office with nearly 350,000 fewer Michigan residents needing food assistance.

Corrigan has a J.D. from the University of Detroit Law School and a B.A. from Marygrove College. Maura serves as a member of the Kevin's Song Board of Directors.



*A charitable organization for  
community education on the causes  
and prevention of suicide.*

*Founded in memory of Kevin Urso*

# Death is *NOT* the Answer



FILM PREMIERE - APRIL 7, 2016 • 7:30 PM

**Keith Famie** – *Producer, Director*

Directed by Michigan Emmy Award winning director/producer **Keith Famie**,  
*Death is NOT the Answer* premieres on the first night of *The Silent Epidemic:  
A Conference on Suicide*, April 7, 2016, at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, MI.

This documentary film will present a clear view of the suicide epidemic from many points of view. In telling the story of mental illness and suicide, it is hoped that a more open discussion of these topics will take place in our society, that those with suicidal tendencies and their loved ones will know that help is available, that we will learn to recognize signs and symptoms of suicide, and that those who have lost a loved one to suicide will find support.



CLEAN PLANET™

Hope is being able to see that there is light  
despite all of the darkness.

*-Desmond Tutu*



Congratulations to Keith Famie on his important new documentary.  
We wholeheartedly support the vital work being done in the areas of  
suicide awareness and prevention by the good folks at Kevin's Song.

From your friends at [cleanplanetfoods.com](http://cleanplanetfoods.com)

## FILM PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Over the course of the last sixteen months we have had the good fortune of talking with some of the nation's most respected leaders on mental health. During our travels, we have also been able to interview many people about their own struggles with depression or loss of a loved one to suicide. We've documented personal stories with community leaders, clinical professionals, researchers, artists, musicians, depression and suicide survivors, and health and wellness advocates in an effort to gain an understanding of the basic questions: **How does depression work? Why do people die by suicide? What can we do to help?**

We learned from a wide variety of medical practitioners and researchers. At Wayne State University we went behind the scenes of how MRI technology is used in studying the brain with Dr. Vaibhav Diwadkar, and Dr. David Rosenberg, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, shared his perspective on his life's work as a psychiatrist.

Death is  
**NOT** the  
Answer



In Ann Arbor, Dr. John Greden, Executive Director of the University of Michigan Depression Center, talked about creativity, technology, and prescription medications and their role in treating depression, Dr. Melvin McInnis, Director of the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Program, discussed his work on researching bipolar disorder, and Dr. Srijan Sen explained his research in the field of stress, genetics, and depression.

We traveled to sunny Florida to speak with Dr. Thomas Joiner of Florida State University, who has





Death is  
**NOT** the  
Answer



dedicated his life to studying suicide and depression, and shared his personal story of fascination with mental health. Professor Robin Rubin at Florida Atlantic University talked about the importance of gratitude in cultivating a healthy life outlook.

On the West Coast, we met Dr. Rebecca Bernert of Stanford University, who focuses on the relationship between sleep, depression and suicide, and Dr. Emiliana Simon-Thomas at the University of California Berkeley, who took us down the path of gratitude and its role in mental health.



Further exploring the world of mind-body medicine, we went to New York City to speak with Dr. James Gordon, who explained his philosophy on the connection between the mind and body. Back in Michigan, Dr. Joel Kahn, founder of the Kahn Center for Cardiac Longevity, talked about the impact that bodily health and nutrition can have in monitoring and maintaining mental health.

As we delved into the question of what treatment for mental disorders is actually like, we learned from Clinical Social Worker Gigi Colombini, who talked about her work as a psychotherapist. Virginia Drosos of Assurex Health educated us on the emerging field of genetic testing, which matches patients with medications based on their genes, increasing the probability they will work. Kathleen Stevens, Director of Marketing and Development for the National Network of Depression Centers, shared her very personal mental health story, from her struggles with bipolar disorder to the loss of her brother to suicide nearly thirty years ago.



Individuals around the country shared their personal perspectives on mental well-being, including Rabbi Daniel Syme, tenor Aaron Caruso, suicide survivor Ken Baldwin, 60s folk musician Peter Yarrow, authors David J. Pollay and John Bateson, nationally-acclaimed comedian Darrin Rose, and Mark Ridley, owner of the Comedy Castle in Royal Oak, MI.



We were able to understand the impact that suicide and depression has on a community - as well as how that community pushes back - by speaking with Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard as well as firefighters from Westland, the Ozone House in Ann Arbor, depression speaker and former Lions quarterback Eric Hipple and his daughter Tarah,

Death is  
**NOT** the  
Answer



# Assurex HEALTH

Precision medicine for personal wellness.™

Proud supporter of the documentary  
*"Death is NOT the Answer"*

Assurex Health is a commercial stage, informatics-based precision medicine company focused on fundamentally improving the way healthcare providers select medications to treat patients with neuropsychiatric disorders. By analyzing the interaction of multiple genetic variants affecting a patient's ability to respond to and metabolize psychiatric, pain, and ADHD medications, we enable clinicians to prescribe genetically appropriate medications, improving patient outcomes, delivering better and faster response and lowering healthcare costs.



Learn more at:  
[www.genesight.com](http://www.genesight.com)

Kevin's Song founders Gail and John Urso, and Dennis Liegghio of Know Resolve, an organization that works to educate teens about suicide prevention.

We hope that these individuals and organizations are as inspiring and revelatory to you as they have been to us. The fight against this too often lethal disease is an ongoing effort, and cannot be overcome by one individual. As has always been the case, we must find strength in numbers.

I clearly understand the responsibility and complexity of this subject. My team of associate producers Katie Hiipakka and Jimmy Saoud and editor Joe Grant very thoughtfully and respectfully take into consideration the impact a project of this nature can have on society.

We especially want to thank our executive producers Phyllis Sander, Kevin's Song, and our Co-Executive Producer Rabbi Daniel Syme, along with Jack and

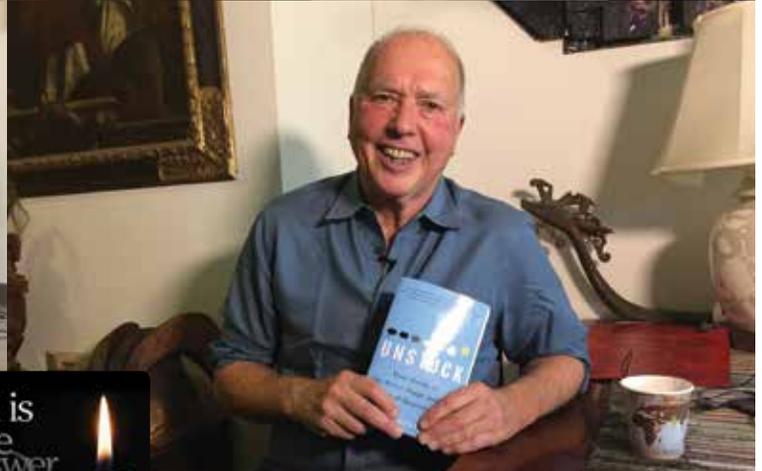
Annette Aronson, Tom and Sue Rau, Gail Danto, Arthur Roffey, Bill Ritter, and our corporate supporters Assurex, Others First, and Roco Real Estate.

This film is still a work in progress. We hope to have the final cut completed by fall of 2016 for a PBS launch here in the state of Michigan. If you are interested in helping support this film's local and national launches, please reach out to me – we are still in need of caring community members who see the value in helping this documentary gain a wide audience. You can learn more about this film production by going to [deathisnottheanswer.com](http://deathisnottheanswer.com).

Thank you.

**Keith Famie**

*Director/Executive Producer*



## SPONSORS OF FILM:



Keith Famie – *Producer, Director*

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:

Keith Famie, Phyllis & Harvey Sandler, Kevin's Song

### CONTRIBUTING PRODUCER:

Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

### PARTNER AFFILIATES:

Kevin's Song and KnowResolve

### SPONSORS:

Assurex Health, Inc./GeneSight

Roco Real Estate

### FILM SUPPORTERS:

Tom and Sue Rau

Bill Ritter

Jack and Annette Aronson

Others First

Kevin Parikh - Alishaan Parikh, L.L.C.

Patricia Gill and Fred Schwehofer

Joan Gabrielson

Eric Seiger, D.O.

# OthersFirst

Supports the mental health and  
well being of our Armed Forces

*Others First is dedicated to making a difference in the community by providing  
funding and support to a wide range of charitable causes.*

**Learn more at [othersfirst.org](http://othersfirst.org)**

# KEITH FAMIE

Filmmaker/Speaker



Director/producer Keith Famie was, for many years, known as a celebrity chef of well-known restaurants in metro Detroit selected as one of America's 'Best New Chefs' in 1989 by Food and Wine magazine; twice his restaurants were chosen as 'Best New Restaurant' in America by Esquire Magazine.

Famie was also a finalist on the 2001 reality television series, "Survivor, the Australian Outback."

Keith hosted his own Food Network series, "Keith Famie's Adventures," thirty-two episodes in all, traveling the world documenting rich-culture cooking styles from the plains of Africa to monk monasteries of Taiwan to the lifestyle of Key West.

In 2004, the Adventure Chef made a bold move to embark on a new journey of documentary filmmaking. "I didn't want to be the 'Adventure Chef' guy, anymore. I wanted to help people tell their stories."

Since that life changing decision, Famie has been awarded ten Michigan Emmys and nominated several other times for his rich, human-interest storytelling, from the ethnic documentaries 'Our Story Of' series, to the military tribute films such as 'Detroit, Our Greatest Generation, Our Vietnam Generation, and 'One Soldier's Story.' Famie has proved that he and his team at Visionalist Entertainment Productions can create informative, entertaining and emotional films that touch a wide audience.



Most recently he has produced a seven-part series called "The Embrace of Aging, the male perspective of growing old," which aired on PBS Detroit in 2013. Currently airing on PBS in Detroit is the second film in the trilogy: "The Embrace of Aging, the female perspective of growing old," a 13-part series soon to launch on other PBS stations.

In the spring of 2015, he hopes to complete 'Maire's Journey,' a touching story about a twenty-four year old cancer patient and the amazing journey she made in her afterlife. Fall of 2015 will bring to the viewing public the last 13-part series in the aging trilogy, "The Embrace of Dying, how we deal with the end of life."

"There is nothing more gratifying than being able to touch people through documentary film work that we do. I know what we do affects people's lives."

To learn more about Visionalist Entertainment Productions, go to [www.v-prod.com](http://www.v-prod.com).

A Visionalist Entertainment Production





# JCM

film &  
music

think it • build it • see it • hear it  
[jcmfilmmusic.com](http://jcmfilmmusic.com)



*A charitable organization for  
community education on the causes  
and prevention of suicide.  
Founded in memory of Kevin Urso*

# THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

## A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE

INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE

CONFERENCE · FRIDAY, APRIL 8, & SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016

Kevin's Song is a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise public awareness about suicide, its causes and prevention – all aimed at reducing deaths from this silent epidemic. Our first conference on suicide will focus on three areas: Information, Intervention and Hope.

### INFORMATION

Thomas Joiner, Ph.D., researcher and clinician, has authored or edited fifteen books, including, "Why People Die by Suicide," the authoritative work on the interpersonal-psychological theory of suicidal behavior.

### INTERVENTION

Dr. Doree Espiritu will describe the Zero Suicide Initiative and how it breaks the path to suicide. Zero Suicide is a comprehensive prevention approach, where mental health care practitioners in the system address suicide risk directly with patients they think might be struggling.

### HOPE

Michelle Cornette, Ph.D. - Dr. Cornette's longtime professional focus has been the study and prevention of suicide. Her professional history in suicide prevention includes roles as administrator, researcher, clinician, educator, and survivor of suicide loss.

THE SILENT EPIDEMIC  
A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE  
INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE

## CONFERENCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The goal of the Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide is to provide a local forum for those who share an interest in the causes and means of prevention of suicide, including physicians, psychologists, nurses, social workers, clinicians, educators, public policy makers, clergy, crisis center workers, students and veterans, as well as those who have lost a loved one to suicide or had their own suicidal experience to meet. It will be an opportunity to share information about suicide and the repercussions of suicide as well as how to identify and assess those at risk and learn about the means of prevention.

The Main Conference will commence Friday morning with Keynote address, plenary and many breakout sessions on a variety of topics including: Zero Suicide Initiative; suicide awareness programs; the latest techniques and treatment options for those afflicted by suicidal ideation and behavior; faith perspectives on suicide; programs for educators to prevent youth suicide; the impact of suicide on select groups including professionals, the LGBT community, active military and veterans and Native Americans; and other topics on prevention.

Saturday will include sessions aimed at survivors of suicide as well as additional plenary and breakout sessions dealing with suicide information and intervention; Preventing and surviving suicide; the language of suicide loss; the uniqueness of suicide grief; dealing with the aftermath of death by suicide or the survival of a friend, loved one, colleague, patient or client who has attempted suicide; and grief counseling. Following lunch, the conference will close with a Healing Ceremony.

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

### EXHIBITS

---

All attendees are encouraged to visit the Exhibitor Gallery on the Second Level of the Conference Center outside the breakout rooms.

### BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS

---

Continental breakfast will be served each morning. A box lunch will be available each day with vegetarian options. If you have dietary restrictions, please see one of the volunteers so that we can accommodate your needs. Refreshments will be served daily outside the breakout rooms and in the Exhibition Gallery.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

---

Forms, sign-in sheets and instructions are available in the Conference Registration Area outside the Judea Room.

### FRIDAY EVENING SUPPER AND ENTERTAINMENT

---

Friday evening, after the presentation by Dennis Liegghio, all attendees are invited to attend a reception including food, beer and wine and refreshments. Entertainment will also be provided. This event is included in your registration package at no additional charge.

### CONFERENCE EVALUATION FORM

---

The Evaluation Form is included in your Conference Bag. Please give us your feedback.

### WIRELESS INTERNET AT THE CONFERENCE CENTER:

---

Connect to "St. John's Meeting" wireless signal Open Web Browser (Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, etc.) \*\*\*No Password Required\*\*\*

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS:

Continuing education credits for Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide are offered through the organizations listed below.

The **Conference Evaluation Form** must be turned in along with your CE form prior to leaving the Conference in order to receive your credits and/or a certificate of attendance.

Forms and **sign in sheets** are available in the registration area outside the Judea Room

### SOCIAL WORKERS:

Social work continuing education credits approved by NASW-MI Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative. Course approval number: MICEC-0014. Actual number of credits dependent on program/days attended. Total possible credits: 19

### PHYSICIANS/NURSES:

Henry Ford Health System is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Henry Ford Health System designates this live course for a maximum of 16.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s) TM. Physicians/Nurses should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### EDUCATORS:

State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) for Educators approved by an application through the Macomb County Intermediate School District. Michigan Educator Certification System Approval Number is 20160896. Application Number: 88587 - Number of Contact Hours: 18

Number of SCECHs: 3-18. Kevin's Song will cover the \$10 application fee for the SCECHs.

## KEVIN'S SONG SUPPORTIVE STAFF:

The subject of suicide being discussed throughout this conference may cause discomfort for some individuals. Something seen in the film or discussed in a presentation may trigger an emotional reaction such as sadness, anger or other emotions. Please know that it is okay to get up and leave during a presentation. Please also know that there are qualified Supportive Staff members available to talk with you. They can be identified by the orange name tags they are wearing.

## KEVIN'S SONG WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THIS CONFERENCE A SUCCESS:

The Staff of the Inn at St. John's  
Bill Bowen and the Staff at Octane Design  
Dr. Doree Ann Espiritu M.D. and her Colleagues  
and Staff of Henry Ford Behavioral Health  
Jim Izzi and the Staff at JT Graphics  
James McGovern

Don Girodat  
Dawn R. Wolfe, Wolfe Communications  
Synthia Bryant, Media Relations,  
Henry Ford Health System  
Brooke Blackwell,  
Director of Communications, DWMHA

THE SILENT EPIDEMIC  
A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE  
INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE

## EXHIBITORS GALLERY:

Located on the Second Floor of the Conference Center, outside the breakout rooms, our Exhibitors have valuable information and resources to share. Please make time to check out these organizations.

### **KNOW RESOLVE**

---

KnowResolve is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by survivor Dennis Liegghio, who at the age of 14, lost his father to suicide. KnowResolve is dedicated to promoting mental health and preventing youth suicides through outreach, advocacy and education. Dennis has presented his message of hope to many students throughout the Midwest.

### **ELLA DESIGNS**

---

ELLA Designs began when Elizabeth and Lauren Guz, mother and daughter, had a vision to create a business where they could make beautiful jewelry while raising awareness and money for bipolar research in memory of their son and brother, Michael who passed away in 2009 at the age of 17. ELLA Designs donates 50% of all profits to the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund at the University of Michigan Depression Center.

### **JUDITH BURDICK, SALE OF "TRANSFORMING LOSS"**

---

Judith Burdick, of Bloomfield, Michigan, is a highly-regarded licensed psychotherapist. Her practice is dedicated to individuals with a wide range of emotional and psychological issues and focuses on providing individual and group therapy grief support. Her experiences with the group inspired her unexpected foray into filmmaking. Transforming Loss provides an authentic look at six families who experienced heart-wrenching loss, and their harrowing personal journeys to transformation. The documentary has won numerous local awards and is poised to take home even more laurels when it's released to a national audience later this year.

### **SAGINAW YELLOW RIBBON CHAPTER**

---

Survivors of Suicide offers group support and understanding for those who have lost a loved

one to suicide and fosters suicide awareness and education in the community, so future acts may be prevented. When someone you love dies by suicide, they offer a safe place to a place to meet with others who understand, can offer support, strength, and hope.

### **MINDS OVER MATTERS**

---

The mission of Minds Over Matters is to erase the stigma surrounding mental illness and suicide, provide hope, and raise funds for life-saving programs. Since its inception in 2006, the MOM Race has brought thousands of people together to celebrate life, strengthen community, and raised money for local brain research, suicide prevention programming, and crisis intervention services.

### **HEINZ C. PRECHTER BIPOLAR RESEARCH**

---

The Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund supports research within the University of Michigan's Depression Center. The Depression Center, the nation's first comprehensive center devoted to the prevention, detection and treatment of depression, bipolar disorder and other related illnesses, is dedicated to providing national leadership in the areas of depression research, clinical care of patients with depression-related disorders, and in the training of the next generation of physicians and medical scientists who wish to devote their careers to learning more about the causes of depression-related disorders and the best ways to treat them.

### **AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES**

---

AIHFS is a non-profit health center serving the Native American community of Southeastern Michigan. Its mission is to empower and enhance the physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental wellbeing of American Indian families and other underserved populations in SE MI through culturally grounded health and family services.

## EXHIBITORS GALLERY:

### **KADIMA**

---

Kadima provides comprehensive residential, therapeutic and social services to all people with mental health needs as they move forward in their lives. Inspired by Jewish values, Kadima delivers these services while providing education and outreach to the broader community to ensure positive mental health outcomes for all.

### **WENTWORTH & ASSOCIATES, MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

---

Wentworth & Associates, PC is a group of highly trained mental health professionals providing individuals, couples, family and group psychotherapy. Lawrence Wentworth and his staff are proud of their continuing efforts, and those of his referral partners, to honor and respect the diversity of their clients and staff. Each therapist is an independent contractor and licensed and able to provide psychological assessment and treatment to children, adolescents, adults, and seniors.

### **NAMI OF DETROIT-METRO**

---

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – Detroit Metro is grass roots, all volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons with serious mental illness and their families through, advocacy, support and education. In addition, NAMI Metro promotes research that will lead to improvements for all those diagnosed and living with a mental illness. It is our endeavor to erase the stigma that is associated with mental illness and we will not rest until mental illness is accepted the same as any other illness.

### **AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION, MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

---

The work of the AFSP focuses on eliminating the loss of life from suicide by delivering innovative prevention programs; educating the public about risk factors and warning signs; raising funds for suicide research and program; and reaching out to those individuals who have lost someone to suicide.

As a part of AFSP's growing nationwide network of chapters, the Michigan Chapter brings together people from all backgrounds who want to prevent suicide in our communities as well as families and friends who have lost someone to suicide, vulnerable individuals, mental health professionals, clergy, educators, students, and community and business leaders.

### **JASON FOUNDATION, INC.**

---

The Jason Foundation, Inc. (JFI) is dedicated to the prevention of the "Silent Epidemic" of youth suicide through educational and awareness programs that equip young people, educators/youth workers and parents with the tools and resources to help identify and assist at-risk youth. JFI works to establish a Triangle of Prevention by providing students, parents and teachers the tools and resources to help identify and help at-risk youth.

### **NAMI OF WASHTENAW COUNTY**

---

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of Washtenaw County is a non-profit organization and a local affiliate of the national NAMI and NAMI Michigan, that aims to improve the lives of persons affected by mental illness. Individuals with these biological disorders, their families and mental health professionals, and the broader community can all benefit from the organization's mission.

### **COMMON GROUND**

---

Common Ground provides a lifeline for individuals and families in crisis, victims of crime, persons with mental illness, people trying to cope with critical situations and runaway and homeless youths. Helping people in need for more than 40 years, Common Ground serves more than 80,000 individuals per year. The majority of services are free of charge and 93 percent of every dollar received goes to direct service.

## EXHIBITORS GALLERY:

### **DETROIT WAYNE MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

---

The purpose of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority is to ensure support, care and treatment services to adults with mental illness, individuals with developmental disabilities, children with serious emotional disturbances and persons with substance use disorders and their families so they can make choices in care, live in the community and achieve desired outcomes through individualized health goals. As the public mental health system in Detroit and Wayne County, the DWMHA offers a culturally diverse network of community mental health programs, clinics, private therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists to provide mental health services. We do our best to match you with the services needed at a location that is close to you.

### **CHILDREN'S GRIEF CENTER**

---

The mission of the Children's Grief Center is to provide a healing environment for children, teens and their families grieving a death. The Children's Grief Center provides a safe and healing environment for children, teens and their families as they grieve the death of a parent, sibling, close family member or friend. The participants use art, dance, theatre, storytelling and writing to express their feelings and share their experiences with each other. As they travel this journey together, they know they are not alone and feel supported.

### **FAMILY CENTER**

---

The Family Center is a compass to help guide you to resources, professionals and information. Our community is rich in resources to assist parents but they can be difficult to find. The Family Center believes that by educating, connecting and supporting our families, we can share with caregivers the tools to succeed in this vital task of raising healthy children and building strong families.

### **SIX FEET OVER/SUCK IT SUICIDE**

---

We are a non-profit organization servicing the Metro Detroit tri-county area, that works to better our community by spreading awareness and educating others about mental illness and suicide prevention while advocating for and supporting those in need and connecting them with resources. While we are passionate about our goals and mission the majority of the funds we give are to survivors of suicide loss to assist in funeral costs associated with the death of their loved one.

### **HAVENWYCK HOSPITAL**

---

Havenwyck Hospital provides a continuum of individualized treatment to children, adolescents and adults needing psychiatric and/or substance abuse treatment. Located in Auburn Hills in Southeastern Michigan, Havenwyck strives to create a customized treatment plan for each individual based on level of maturity, life experiences, needs and other factors. Patients at Havenwyck are treated by a qualified multi-disciplinary team, including, but not limited to, a psychiatrist, registered nurses, social workers and recreational therapists, in a warm, supportive environment.

### **NORTHEAST GUIDANCE CENTER**

---

Northeast Guidance Center (NEGC) is a community-based mental health agency founded by the Junior League of Detroit in 1963 to provide services to children on Detroit's eastside. Our mission is to provide innovative, community-based services to children and adults and their families promoting mental health with an emphasis on total wellness. NEGC serves over 1000 children and 3500 adults annually.

## PLENARY SESSIONS

Judea Room

### 8:00 am to 11:00 am

8:00 am - 8:30 am Welcome – **John Urso, Co-Founder, Kevin's Song**

Opening Remarks – **Tom Watkins, CEO and Executive Director, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority**

*Tom will share his personal story of being touched by suicide and will report on the status of mental health services in the greater Detroit area and around the State of Michigan*

8:30 am - 9:30 am KEYNOTE Speaker **Thomas Joiner, Ph.D., "Why People Die by Suicide."**

*In his new theory of suicidal behavior, Thomas Joiner proposes three factors that mark those most at risk of death: the feeling of being a burden on loved ones; the sense of isolation; and, perhaps chillingly, the learned ability to hurt oneself. He tests the theory against diverse facts taken from clinical anecdotes, history, literature, popular culture, anthropology, epidemiology, genetics, and neurobiology--facts about suicide rates among men and women; white and African-American men; anorexics, athletes, prostitutes, and physicians; members of cults, sports fans, and citizens of nations in crisis.*

9:30 am - 10:00 am **Doree Ann Espiritu, M.D., "The Pursuit for Perfect Care and the Zero Suicide Initiative: Audacious Goals?"**

*In this presentation, Dr. Doree Ann Espiritu will describe how Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services transformed mental health care by pursuing perfect depression care and eliminating suicide in their target population. Our patient: Lynn Gaunt will share her story.*

10:00 am - 10:45 am **Michelle Cornette, Ph.D., "Risk Factors and Warning Signs for Suicide: A Primer for Professionals, Survivors, and the Public"**

*The distinction between risk factors and warning signs will be discussed, and the most critical risk factors and warning signs for suicide will be reviewed. Additionally, the presentation will offer perspective and recommendations for survivors of suicide loss, from the presenter, a survivor of her brother's death by suicide.*

10:45 am - 11:00 am BREAK

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS #1

11:00 am to 12:00 pm

### BREAKOUT 1 – SESSION A

**Judea Room**

**Professional Panel: Carolyn Batchelor, Program Director, Health Professional Recovery Program of Michigan; Ken Meisel, Psychotherapist, LMSW; Yvette Hourigan, director of Kentucky Lawyer Assistance Program; and Dr. Edward Jouney, D.O. Moderator, Tish Vincent, of the State Bar of Michigan;**

*This panel will focus on the emotional stressors that professionals face in their respective careers and how left untreated, these individuals are at risk of becoming depressed and, at times, suicidal, evidenced by the high rate of suicide among lawyers, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, etc. This is a problem with no discreet answers. The panel has the goal of reducing the stigma of secondary trauma while educating about best practices in responding to professionals who face emotional trauma in their respective careers. The panel will draw on the work presented throughout the conference as a starting point for exploration of the unique stressors these professionals face. Best practices for addressing these challenges will be shared.*

### BREAKOUT 1 – SESSION B

**Esther Meeting Room**

**Gigi Colombini, LMSW –**

**How a mental health professional can support someone through a suicide crisis**

*In this session, participants will learn some of the language they can use to make understanding a client's level of suicidality easier and have the discussion be more comfortable for both the client and the practitioner. Much like learning any foreign language, the more we use it, the better we are able to speak and understand it if someone begins to talk about it.*

### BREAKOUT 1 – SESSION C

**Judith Meeting Room**

**Lawrence Wentworth, Ph.D – EMDR as a suicide prevention psychotherapy and EMDR as a treatment modality for those who have lost a loved one**

*This breakout session will present a brief overview of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) an evidence-based form of psychotherapy. EMDR is now one of THE treatments of choice for trauma according to the World Health Organization and the Department of Defense. Often, unresolved trauma can lead to self-loathing and, ultimately, suicide. EMDR can help to prevent this. EMDR can also be an effective form of psychotherapy for survivors who are suffering with the traumatic images and thoughts that haunt those that have lost a loved one to suicide.*

### BREAKOUT 1 – SESSION D

**Ruth Meeting Room**

**Polly Gipson, Ph.D – Youth Suicide Risk and Bullying:  
What Youth Aren't Telling You that You Need to Know**

*Youth suicide is the second leading cause of death, a national public health concern (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013). Bullying, also a national public health issue, is associated with elevated youth suicide risk. This workshop will provide information to learners about what constitutes youth bullying and the myriad ways youth psychologically manifest the impact of bullying as victims and/or perpetrators that elevates suicide risk. Prevention and intervention strategies will be shared.*

### BREAKOUT 1 – SESSION E

**Sarah Meeting Room**

**Judith Burdick, MA, LLP – Suicide: From Stigma to Transformation**

*Stigmatized death, as it relates to suicide, evokes tremendous fear and anxiety in both the greater culture and survivors alike. Survivors are often conflicted about disclosing the true nature and cause of death; and consequently, this holding back limits opportunities to receive much needed social support for proper healing to take place. This, in turn, leads to complex emotions often contributing to high levels of guilt and shame, resulting in depression. In her presentation, Judith Burdick will address the stigma of suicide, its complexities and practical methods to move toward transformation.*

### PLENARY SESSION

**Atrium**

**12:15 pm to 1:30 pm**

#### LUNCH

**Presenter: Cheryl King, Ph.D.**

**Recognizing and Responding to Youth Suicide Risk: Here's Where We Are.**

*This session will provide an up-to-date overview of school- and emergency-department based youth suicide risk screening strategies, including the evidence base, strengths and weaknesses of these strategies. Several possible initial interventions in response to positive screens will also be described. The presentation will close with a summary of where we stand and next steps.*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS #2

**1:45 pm to 2:45 pm**

#### BREAKOUT 2 – SESSION A

**Judea Room**

**Clergy Panel: – Acceptance and Hope: Perspectives on Suicide from Faith Traditions**

**Rev. Marianne Grano, Rabbi Daniel Syme, Dr. Imam Achmat Salie and Brother Ray Stadmeyer**

**Moderator: Lynn Maitland, Ph.D., LMSW, Vice President of Mission and Ethics at**

**UH St. John Medical Center, Cleveland.**

*How can faith help us through times of loss and pain when someone dies of suicide? Is suicide a sin? How can people of faith help those affected by suicide, and reach out to people who may be at risk? Clergy from three great monotheistic traditions—Jewish, Christian, and Islamic—address the theme “Acceptance and Hope: Perspectives on Suicide from the Faith Traditions,” with time for questions and interfaith discussion.*

#### BREAKOUT 2 – SESSION B

**Esther Meeting Room**

**Nicole Law, Psy.D. – The Hidden Risks of LGBT Youth**

*LGBT youth are at an increased risk for suicide and self harm. This presentation will discuss the impact of factors such as heteronormativity, culture and language have on identity, self-worth and suicide risk. The session will also explore methods of reducing the impact these factors have on suicide risk in school, community and healthcare settings.*

### BREAKOUT 2 – SESSION C

#### Judith Meeting Room

#### Michelle Cornette, Ph.D. – Military and Veteran Suicide Risk

*Military/ veteran suicide has garnered much media attention in recent years. Epidemiological research suggests that suicide rates among veterans is more than double that of age, gender-matched peers with no military service history. The volume of resources expended by VA and DoD in recent years has led to an explosion of research findings on the epidemiology and etiology of military and veteran suicide. The epidemiology of military/ veteran suicide as well as common and specific risk factors for suicide will be reviewed in this presentation.*

### BREAKOUT 2 – SESSION D

#### Ruth Meeting Room

#### Polly Gipson, Ph.D – Youth Suicide Risk and Bullying What Youth Aren't Telling You that You Need to Know

*Youth suicide is the second leading cause of death, a national public health concern (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013). Bullying, also a national public health issue, is associated with elevated youth suicide risk. This workshop will provide information to learners about what constitutes youth bullying and the myriad ways youth psychologically manifest the impact of bullying as victims and/or perpetrators that elevates suicide risk. Prevention and intervention strategies will be shared.*

### BREAKOUT 2 – SESSION E

#### Sarah Meeting Room

#### Gloria Harrington, LMSW, CCRP Research Manager at the University of Michigan Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund – “Bipolar Research Update: Impact on Longitudinal Studies”

*Demonstrate the need for longitudinal studies. Identify methods to foster participatory collaborations between healthcare researchers and patient. Discuss current areas of research in bipolar disorder and strategies for enhancing multi-disciplinary collaborations. Illustrate best practices for motivating community interest in participatory research to test new ideas, treatments or management strategies, as well as managing recruitment for competing studies.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS #3

---

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

### BREAKOUT 3 – SESSION A

#### Judea Room

**State of Michigan Update Panel: Pat Smith, MS RD, Michigan Department of Community Health, Karen Marshall, Matthew Owens, CNO, Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) Moderator: Seth Persky, Director of the Office of Family Advocate, DHHS, State of Michigan**

*This session will focus on local and state resources for mental health professionals and educators to address suicidal risks and intervention. Learn the opportunities for advances in suicide prevention over the next 4 years with federally-funded investment in Michigan's Youth Suicide Prevention programming.*

### **BREAKOUT 3 – SESSION B**

#### **Esther Meeting Room**

**Jim Hassett/Peter Driscoll – Presentation on Choice Theory and Reality Therapy**

*This presentation will focus on the relationship between mental health and suicide prevention. Through the teachings of Dr. William Glasser and Choice Theory, James and Peter will present an essential outline of the things we know about unhappy people and how knowing and practicing Choice Theory and Reality Therapy can empower someone who is willing to make the effort to “Take Charge of Their Life” and begin to move toward stronger, supportive relationships starting today!*

### **BREAKOUT 3 – SESSION C**

#### **Judith Meeting Room**

**Jean Nemenzik, LMSW, Kadima Center – Understanding Common Mental Health Crisis and Practical Ways to Respond: A pre-view of Mental Health First Aid**

*One in every 5 adults in America live and work with a diagnosed mental illness or disability. Understanding what that means and how to assist others in getting needed help can be a valuable resource in increasing health, productivity and managing risk in our community. Mental Health First Aid is an evidenced based best practice for helping non-mental health professionals recognize the most common mental health crisis’s we encounter on a daily basis; and how to help until professional assistance can be obtained. Jean Nemenzik, LMSW will provide an overview of Mental Health First Aid and present more information about how Mental Health First Aid can benefit your organization and community.*

### **BREAKOUT 3 – SESSION D**

#### **Ruth Meeting Room**

**Joe Kort, Ph.D., - Understanding Males Who’ve Been Sexually Abused and Why They Attempt Suicide**

*Current statistics, based on those that are reported, say one in three women and one in six men will be sexually abused in their lifetime. This workshop will help you understand the traits that are characteristic of people who have suffered the trauma of sexual abuse, specifically traits that are unique to male survivors. This seminar will explore why it is especially difficult for men to talk about their sexual abuse and attempt suicide and how powerful their struggles and recovery are. This workshop could be the missing link to help you help these males find their voice, find their peace, and reclaim themselves and their lives.*

### **BREAKOUT 3 – SESSION E**

#### **Sarah Meeting Room**

**Gloria Harrington, LMSW, CCRP Research Manager at the University of Michigan Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund – “Bipolar Research Update: Impact on Longitudinal Studies”**

*REPEAT Discussion of the recent developments in the diagnosis and treatment of this complex disease.*

### BREAKOUT 3 – SESSION F

**Nazareth Room**

**Cari Griffen and Angela D'Agostini-Miller –  
Suicide Prevention in Schools SafeTALK Training Part 1**

*Session will present information and training on Implementation of Suicide Prevention Programs in schools. SafeTALK is a training program that teaches participants to recognize and engage persons who might be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them with community resources trained in suicide intervention. SafeTALK stresses safety while challenging taboos that inhibit open talk about suicide. The 'safe' of safeTALK stands for 'suicide alertness for everyone'. The 'TALK' letters stand for the practice actions that one does to help those with thoughts of suicide: Tell, Ask, Listen, and KeepSafe.*

### BREAKOUT 3 – SESSION G

**Galilee Room**

**Barb Smith - First Responders Training Workshop Part 1**

*Barb will discuss the warning signs and risk factors of suicide to help when investigating and working with families at a scene, recommendation on delivering a death notification, and discussion of what puts law enforcement at risk for suicide. This presentation will leave you with tools to work that "unthinkable" uncomfortable scene of a suicide. Basics of prevention, intervention and investigation of suicide to assist first responders who work with those at risk and to prepare them to work with families in the aftermath of a completed or attempted suicide.*

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS #4

4:15 pm to 5:15 pm

### BREAKOUT 4 – SESSION A

**Esther Meeting Room**

**Gigi Colombini, LMSW – How to engage the family's help during a suicidal crisis**

*In this session, participants will learn how to talk with the families of their clients in the event of a suicidal crisis. They will be able to teach the family how to ask "how suicidal are you feeling" and discuss ways to get an honest answer from their loved ones, and then what to do if things have gotten worse. Since a family goes into crisis when their loved one is in crisis, we will discuss ways to get the family through their feelings in order for them to be of help for the suicidal person.*

### BREAKOUT 4 – SESSION B

**Sarah Meeting Room**

**Andrea L. Smith, MSW – QPR Training**

*QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. QPR offers extended learning opportunities for professions which are especially likely to come into contact with individuals who are in-crisis or suicidal. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.*

*Key components covered in training:*

- How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide
- The common causes of suicidal behavior
- The warning signs of suicide
- How to get help for someone in crisis

### **BREAKOUT 4 – SESSION C**

#### **Ruth Meeting Room**

#### **Amelia Lehto – Social Media Skills: New Media for Messaging**

*REPEAT Thought leader with experience at the intersection of social media and suicide prevention will provide training in best practice social media skills and strategies for personal and professional venues. Presenter will provide overview and introduction into social media best practices, and then will provide coaching for a cross section of peers and professionals, addressing social media skills specific to their discipline's needs. Group members will develop a responsible social media policy, will receive assistance setting social media accounts as needed, and will receive assistance in developing, tagging, and curating content. Participants will leave the workshop with conference-specific social media skills they can immediately apply to their lives.*

### **BREAKOUT 4 – SESSION D**

#### **Judith Meeting Room**

#### **Jean Nemenzik, LMSW, Kadima Center – Understanding Common Mental Health Crisis and Practical Ways to Respond: A pre-view of Mental Health First Aid**

*REPEAT One in every 5 adults in America live and work with a diagnosed mental illness or disability. Understanding what that means and how to assist others in getting needed help can be a valuable resource in increasing health, productivity and managing risk in our community. Mental Health First Aid is an evidenced based best practice for helping non-mental health professionals recognize the most common mental health crisis's we encounter on a daily basis; and how to help until professional assistance can be obtained. Jean Nemenzik, LMSW will provide an overview of Mental Health First Aid and present more information about how Mental Health First Aid can benefit your organization and community.*

### **BREAKOUT 4 – SESSION E**

#### **Nazareth Room**

#### **Cari Griffen and Angela D'Agostini-Miller – Suicide Prevention in Schools SafeTALK Training Part 2**

*Session will present information and training on Implementation of Suicide Prevention Programs in schools. SafeTALK is a training program that teaches participants to recognize and engage persons who might be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them with community resources trained in suicide intervention. SafeTALK stresses safety while challenging taboos that inhibit open talk about suicide. The 'safe' of safeTALK stands for 'suicide alertness for everyone'. The 'TALK' letters stand for the practice actions that one does to help those with thoughts of suicide: Tell, Ask, Listen, and KeepSafe.*

### **BREAKOUT 4 – SESSION F**

#### **Galilee Room**

#### **Barb Smith - First Responders Training Workshop Part 2**

*Barb will discuss the warning signs and risk factors of suicide to help when investigating and working with families at a scene, recommendation on delivering a death notification, and discussion of what puts law enforcement at risk for suicide. This presentation will leave you with tools to work that "unthinkable" uncomfortable scene of a suicide. Basics of prevention, intervention and investigation of suicide to assist first responders who work with those at risk and to prepare them to work with families in the aftermath of a completed or attempted suicide.*

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, April 8, 2016

### PLENARY SESSION

Judea Room

5:30 pm to 6:15 pm

Presenter: **Dennis Liegghio**

*Loss survivor and founder of KnowResolve, presenting the profoundly moving and meaningful presentation that he makes to high school students throughout Michigan.*

### PLENARY SESSION

Judea Room

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Casual Supper/Refreshments/Entertainment. Open to all attendees at no additional charge.



OCTANE

*Fuel for Brands*



Revving up print, web & digital  
design since 1999.

*Congratulations to Kevin's Song!  
We wish you all the best.*

octanedesign.com



kevinssong.org

*A charitable organization for  
community education on the causes  
and prevention of suicide.*

*Founded in memory of Kevin Urso*

### PLENARY SESSION

Judea Room

8:00 am to 1:00 am

#### BREAKFAST

Presenter: **Deena Baxter, author of "Surviving Suicide, Searching for 'Normal' with Heartache & Humor"**

*After losing her adult son to suicide, Deena Baxter launched "The Surviving Suicide and Sudden Loss Project" with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Collier County, FL - a book and website project dedicated to "Giving mental health a life-affirming voice." Deena shares how embracing humanity and all its imperfections kept her anchored when her personal world spun off its axis. She includes heartache, healing and humor in her presentation as well as helpful tools for those who are searching for "Normal". Her advocacy platform includes personal wellness responsibility, the impacts of stigma, access to resources, healthy ways to grieve, need for independent mental health research, HIPPA challenges, and reasonable approaches to marijuana legislation and gun legislation.*

### PLENARY SESSION

Judea Room

9:15 am to 10:30 am

**Survivor PANEL: Michelle Cornette, Ph.D., Dennis Legghio, KnowResolve, Kevin Fischer, NAMI, Jim Adams, Director of Operations, Fox 2 News, Gail Urso, Co-Founder, Kevin's Song, Moderator: Gigi Colombini, LMSW**

*This moderated panel discussion will highlight the personal stories of survivors of suicide loss whose experiences with grief and recovery will inspire and provide insight into the process of suicide loss, healing and HOPE.*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS #5

10:45 am to 11:45 am

#### BREAKOUT 5 – SESSION A

Judith Meeting Room

**Lawrence Wentworth, Ph.D – EMDR as a suicide prevention psychotherapy and EMDR as a treatment modality for those who have lost a loved one**

*REPEAT This breakout session will present a brief overview of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) an evidence-based form of psychotherapy. EMDR is now one of THE treatments of choice for trauma according to the World Health Organization and the Department of Defense. Often, unresolved trauma can lead to self-loathing and, ultimately, suicide. EMDR can help to prevent this. EMDR can also be an effective form of psychotherapy for survivors who are suffering with the traumatic images and thoughts that haunt those that have lost a loved one to suicide.*

#### BREAKOUT 5 – SESSION B

Esther Meeting Room

**Nicole Law, PsyD – The Hidden Risks of LGBT Youth**

*REPEAT LGBT youth are at an increased risk for suicide and self harm. This presentation will discuss the impact of factors such as heteronormativity, culture and language have on identity, self-worth and suicide risk. The session will also explore methods of reducing the impact these factors have on suicide risk in school, community and healthcare settings.*

### BREAKOUT 5 – SESSION C

**Sarah Meeting Room**

**Michelle Cornette, Ph.D – Military and Veteran suicide risk**

*REPEAT Military/ veteran suicide has garnered much media attention in recent years. Epidemiological research suggests that suicide rates among veterans is more than double that of age, gender-matched peers with no military service history. The volume of resources expended by VA and DoD in recent years has led to an explosion of research findings on the epidemiology and etiology of military and veteran suicide. The epidemiology of military/ veteran suicide as well as common and specific risk factors for suicide will be reviewed in this presentation.*

### BREAKOUT 5 – SESSION D

**Ruth Meeting Room**

**Judith Burdick, MA, LLP – Suicide: From Stigma to Transformation**

*REPEAT Stigmatized death, as it relates to suicide, evokes tremendous fear and anxiety in both the greater culture and survivors alike. Survivors are often conflicted about disclosing the true nature and cause of death; and consequently, this holding back limits opportunities to receive much needed social support for proper healing to take place. This, in turn, leads to complex emotions often contributing to high levels of guilt and shame, resulting in depression. In her presentation, Judith Burdick will address the stigma of suicide, its complexities and practical methods to move toward transformation.*

### LOSS SURVIVOR SMALL GROUP SESSION

**Samuel Room**

### LIVED EXPERIENCE OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP

**Wisdom Room**

*Moderated discussions for loss and attempt survivors. Attempt survivors and those with suicide ideation will also have opportunity to meet in private breakout room with a licensed mental health professional. Talking with others who have similar experiences can be an important part of healing after a suicide attempt or for those living with suicidal thoughts. Moderated by Amelia Lehto, a person with lived experience and a trained group facilitator.*

## PLENARY SESSION

**Atrium**

**Noon to 1:00 pm**

### LUNCH

**Presenter: Karen Marshall – Outreach and Training Coordinator, Sacred Bundle Suicide Prevention Program at American Indian Health and Family Services of SE Michigan**

*Suicide awareness, prevention, intervention and post-vention are rising on the nation's radar, largely over the past 20 years. Karen Marshall describes positive changes through the steps of her journey as a suicide loss survivor, and how the voices of people personally impacted by suicide deaths and attempts have strengthened advocacy for life-saving change.*

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Saturday, April 9, 2016

### PLENARY SESSION

Wisdom Room

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

#### CONFERENCE CLOSING - HEALING CEREMONY

Presenters: **Judith Sheldon and Issa Abramaleem, First Circle, Inc.**

*The loss of death brings us ever closer to life, and to love. Without words, and regardless of skill, our circle drumming will express the journey from loss, to the remembrance of life and to the eternity of love.*

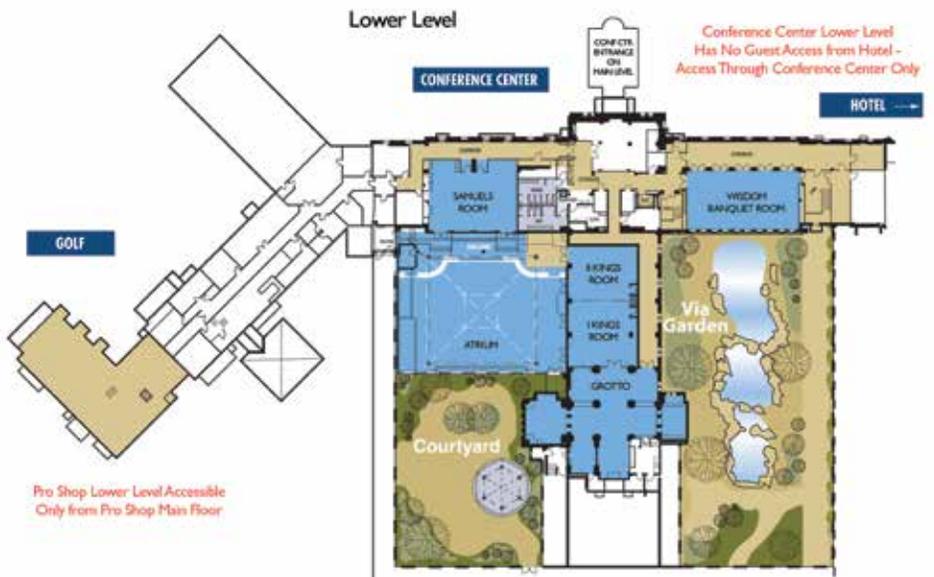
## PLENARY AND BREAKOUT ROOM LOCATION GUIDE:

|   |  |              |
|---|--|--------------|
| Pre-Conference Plenary and Lunch (Thursday) | Judea Room   | Main Level   |
| First Responders (Thursday)                 | Wisdom Room  | Lower Level  |
| Conference Plenary (Friday)                 | Judea Room   | Main Level   |
| Conference Breakouts (Friday & Saturday)    | Esther Room, Judith Room<br>Ruth Room & Sarah Room | Second Level |
| Lunch (Friday & Saturday)                   | Atrium   | Lower Level  |
| First Responders (Friday)                   | Galilee Room                                       | Main Level   |
| SafeTALK Training (Friday)                  | Nazareth Room                                      | Main Level   |
| Evening Reception (Friday)                  | Judea Room   | Main Level   |
| Conference Plenary (Saturday)               | Judea Room   | Main Level   |
| Survivor Small Groups (Saturday)            | Samuel Room & Wisdom Room                          | Lower Level  |
| Closing - Healing Ceremony (Saturday)       | Wisdom Room  | Lower Level  |
| Exhibitors Gallery                          | Hallways Outside Breakout Rooms                    | Second Level |
| Volunteer Room & Conference Office          | Board Room   | Main Level   |

THE SILENT EPIDEMIC  
A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE  
INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE



*The Inn at St. John's*  
GOLF | RECEPTIONS | CONFERENCES



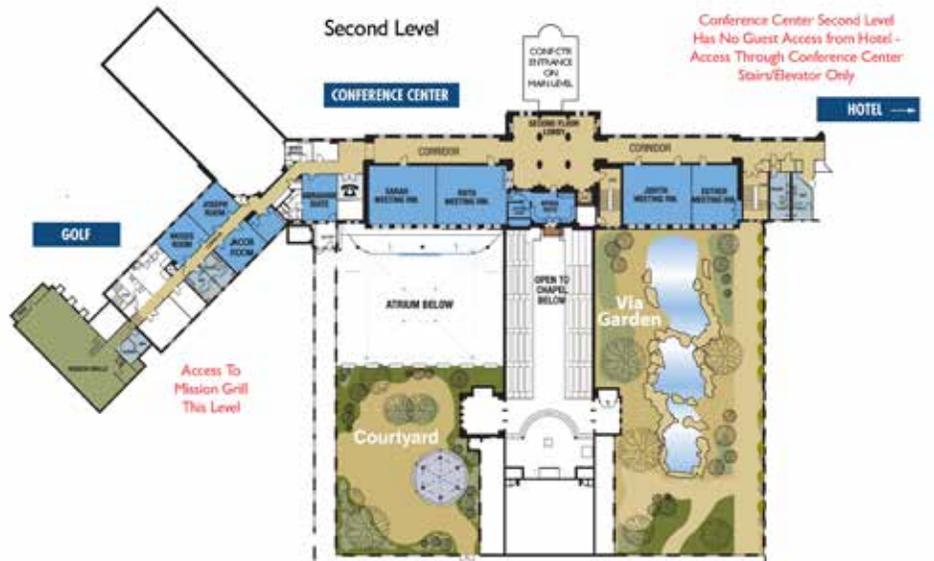
**WIRELESS INTERNET AT THE CONFERENCE CENTER:**

Connect to "St. John's Meeting"

wireless signal

Open Web Browser (Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, etc.)

\*\*\*No Password Required\*\*\*

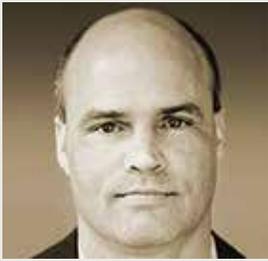


|  |                       |  |                            |
|--|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|
|  | Entrances             |  | Golf                       |
|  | Banquet/Meeting Rooms |  | Corridors/Stairs/Elevators |
|  | Chapel                |  | Restrooms                  |
|  | Hotel                 |  | Phones                     |

THE SILENT EPIDEMIC  
A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE  
INFORMATION · INTERVENTION · HOPE

## PLENARY SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS:

### THOMAS JOINER, PH.D.



*Keynote Speaker –  
“Why People Die by Suicide.”*

Thomas Joiner grew up in Georgia, went to college at Princeton, and received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. He is The

Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor in the Department of Psychology at Florida State University (FSU), Tallahassee, Florida. Dr. Joiner’s work is on the psychology, neurobiology, and treatment of suicidal behavior and related conditions. Author of over 500 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Joiner was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Residency Fellowship. He received the Young Investigator Award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, the Shakow Award for Early Career Achievement from the Division of Clinical Psychology of the American Psychological Association, the Shneidman Award for excellence in suicide research from the American Association of Suicidology, and the Award for Distinguished Scientific Early Career Contributions from the American Psychological Association, as well as research grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, Department of Defense (DoD), and various foundations. The Lawton Professorship, which Dr. Joiner received in 2010, is FSU’s single highest honor.

He is a consultant to NASA’s Human Research Program, and is the Director, with Pete Gutierrez, Ph.D., of the DoD-funded Military Suicide Research Consortium, a \$30 million project.

Dr. Joiner has authored or edited seventeen books, including “Why People Die By Suicide,” published in 2005 by Harvard University Press. Largely in connection with this authoritative book, he has made numerous radio, print, and television appearances, including write-ups in The Wall Street Journal and The Times of London, a radio interview on NPR’s Talk of the Nation, and two appearances on the Dr. Phil Show. He runs a part-time clinical and consulting practice specializing in suicidal behavior, including legal consultation on suits involving death by suicide. He lives in Tallahassee, Florida, with his wife and two sons, the elder of whom is an FSU freshman.

### MICHELLE CORNETTE, PH.D.



*“Risk Factors and Warning Signs for Suicide: A Primer for Professionals, Survivors, and the Public”; Military and Veteran suicide risk and Member of Survivor Panel*

Dr. Cornette’s longtime professional focus has been the study and prevention of suicide. Her professional history in suicide prevention includes roles as administrator, researcher, clinician, educator, and survivor of suicide loss. Dr. Cornette is affiliated with the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP), Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where she served as Military Suicide Subject Matter Expert. In her work for the CDP, she developed a 2-day workshop for military mental health providers on empirically-supported approaches to suicide prevention. The workshop which was designated among APA’s 2013 Presidential Initiatives, has been disseminated to military mental health providers across the country. She has also been active in teaching within the Medical and Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program.

Prior posts held by Dr. Cornette include her 10-year in the VA system, where she was VISN 12 Suicide Prevention Director, Suicide Prevention Team Leader, and Mental Health Division Research Lead. Dr. Cornette has also maintained an active research program on suicide risk, funded by the National Science Foundation, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the Charles E. Kubly Foundation, the DoD, and VA HSR&D. She has published a number of articles and book chapters and has presented extensively on the topics of military and civilian suicide risk assessment, and intervention.

Dr. Cornette is a member of the MOMRP Suicide Research Consortium, and the Defense Suicide Prevention Office working group addressing suicide prevention training. She sits on the Medical Advisory Board of the Charles E. Kubly Foundation, and has previously served on the VISN 12 Mental Health Advisory Board, and the Board of Directors, Mental Health American of Wisconsin. She has been honored for her contributions by both VHA and DoD.

Dr. Cornette holds a research faculty appointment in the Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## PLENARY SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS:

### TOM WATKINS



*CEO and Executive Director,  
Detroit Wayne Mental  
Health Authority*

*Opening Remarks at  
First Conference Session*

Tom Watkins currently serves as the President and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA). Working with a dedicated community board of directors, leadership team, staff and host of provider networks to manage and lead a comprehensive system of care that offers treatment and support to over 100,000 people with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorders. He has quickly installed the new mission of being consumer and community-focused, evidence-based and data driven. Under his leadership, DWMHA has already begun to examine current practices and reduce administrative costs in order to deliver as much funding as possible for quality programs and services as the organization continues to “put people first”.

### CHERYL KING, PH.D.



*Recognizing and Responding  
to Youth Suicide Risk: Here's  
Where We Are? Friday  
Luncheon Speaker*

Cheryl King is a Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology, and Director of the Mary A. Rackham Institute

at the University of Michigan. As Director of the Youth Depression and Suicide Research Program, she has provided leadership for multiple federally funded research initiatives focused on developing evidence-based strategies for adolescent and young adult suicide risk screening, assessment, and intervention. Dr. King has published widely on youth suicide prevention and has conducted workshops worldwide on best practices in suicide risk assessment and intervention. She is the lead author of the recently published book, *Teen Suicide Risk: A Practitioner Guide to Screening, Assessment, and Management*. In addition, Dr. King

has provided testimony in the U.S. Senate on youth suicide prevention and is a Past President of the American Association of Suicidology, the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers, and the Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology.

### DENNIS LIEGGHIO



*Loss survivor and founder  
of KnowResolve – High  
School Presentation and  
Member of Survivor Panel*

Dennis Liegghio was 14 years old when he lost his father to suicide, and their last words were in anger. He blamed

himself for his dad's death and struggled with his own depression and thoughts of suicide for many years. A song that he wrote about this experience was a turning point towards healing, and the inspiration for founding KnowResolve. Today, Dennis shares his story, his song, and his mission with thousands of teens and young adults every year hoping to connect those who are suffering in silence with the message that with help comes hope.

### KAREN M. MARSHALL



*State of Michigan  
Update Panel; Saturday  
Luncheon Speaker*

Karen Marshall is a former AIHFS Board member and volunteer with the Sacred Bundle youth suicide prevention program, now very

happily working full-time on the project. Community-based suicide prevention that is very close to her heart, and she particularly enjoy teaching and training life-saving skills. Karen's professional career began as a journalist with the Lansing State Journal, and I was a reporter for print and broadcast organizations for many years. For the past nearly 25 years, Karen has been involved with suicide prevention, intervention, and post-vention in several areas of the country. She is glad to be back in my home state of Michigan, and to be working with this community!

## PLENARY SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS:

### JUDITH SHELDON



*First Circle, Inc.  
Conference Closing /  
Healing Ceremony*

Judith Sheldon is a Michigan native, and has lived in downtown Detroit for three decades. Her long-time commitment to the city is

reflected in her educational programming, which often includes aspects of urban life as a central theme. With degrees from both the University of Michigan and the Center for Humanistic Studies, Judith uses a strong understanding of the arts and personal interest in human development to shape the Christian Education curriculum.

She also uses art and music to relate biblical text and narrative to children and to create a child-centered environment for the study of God. She finds that the inherent spiritual knowing of children is accessed through hands-on and age-appropriate missional projects in our real world. Music, embodied prayer, story-telling, art and group discussion are thematically unified in leading children to active creation care, and to awe and reverence for the mystery of our Creative God. She says, "Art and art education are spirit-filled processes that steep us in the mystery and joy of original creation. Art is a perfect portal for children to enter the Kingdom of God."

She is an adjunct faculty member at Wayne State University and provides movement and musical experientials with Issa Abramaleem through First Circle, Inc.

### ISSA ABRAMALEEM



*First Circle, Inc.  
Conference Closing /  
Healing Ceremony*

Creator of Educational, Spiritual and Inspirational Multimedia; works with Judith Sheldon, Arts Educator, First Circle, Inc. to facilitate on-site

experientials, seminars and workshops in Schools, Colleges, Religious Institutions and Health Care Systems. Multi-Instrumentalist (trombone, guitar,

keyboards, percussion); trombonist on early Motown sessions, and national tour with Motown Revue acts, local work with upper echelon Detroit Jazz musicians of every genre from be-bop to avant garde; music director/conductor For more information, visit First Circle, Inc. at <http://www.firstcircleinc.com>

### DEENA BAXTER



*Author of "Surviving Suicide,  
Searching for 'Normal'  
with Heartache & Humor"  
Saturday Breakfast speaker*

Deena Baxter is a published author, wellness advocate and strategic management consultant with more

than 30 years of experience in finance, program management and communications. She earned a B.S. and MBA at Boston University, worked in high-tech for 18 years and managed an international research project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 9 years. Her business articles and humor columns have been published by Scripps News Service/Journal Media Group, Working Woman, Inc. magazine, PsychologyToday.com, HuffingtonPost.com, BetterAfter50.com and èBella.

In September 2014, she launched The Surviving Suicide & Sudden Loss Project in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Collier County, FL. The project includes a book and creative arts website, [www.WriteOnMyMind.com](http://www.WriteOnMyMind.com), with a mission to promote life-affirming mental wellness. The book is titled, SURVIVING SUICIDE – Searching for "Normal" with Heartache and Humor. All profit from book sales flows to NAMI of Collier County, FL. Baxter incorporates creative art and humor in her writing and was awarded a Mascot Books 2014 Outstanding Author Award for Non-Fiction. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) endorsed the book and has listed it on their website as a resource. The February 2015 issue of Gulfshore Life Magazine included a profile feature on Baxter and The Surviving Suicide and Sudden Loss Project.

Baxter co-founded and runs a spiritual meditation program in her community. She lives and works in Southwest Florida. Contact her at [DeenaBaxter2@gmail.com](mailto:DeenaBaxter2@gmail.com).

## PLENARY SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS:

### JOHN R. URSO



*Co-Founder, Kevin's Song*

John Urso, along with his wife, Gail, is a co-founder of Kevin's Song, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to educating the community on the causes and prevention of suicide. The organization was

founded to honor Kevin, John and Gail's oldest son, who died by suicide in March 2013. John and Gail have two other sons: Brian who resides in Naples, Florida and Justin who, with his wife Carrie, resides in Fort Worth, Texas.

Upon graduating from law school, John joined the University of Detroit School of Law's Urban Law Program and subsequently became the Director of the Urban Law Clinic, a free legal aid clinic that allowed law students to represent indigent clients under attorney supervision. During his tenure at the University of Detroit Law School, John joined the law faculty. He was elected to the position of Judge of the Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Park.

John is now engaged in the private practice of law in the Metropolitan Detroit area.

### GAIL MAITLAND URSO



*Co-Founder, Kevin's Song  
Member of Survivor Panel*

Gail Urso, an interior designer and owner of Urso Designs, Inc., has been married to John Urso for over 49 years and they have lived in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan most of

those years. Gail and John have three sons: Kevin, Brian and Justin. Brian resides in Naples, FL and Justin and his wife Carrie, live in Fort Worth, TX. Gail and John love to travel and those destinations are at the top of their travel list.

Sadly, in March of 2013, Kevin ended his life at the age of 41.

In attempting to understand the suicide of their son Kevin, Gail and John came to learn of the need to educate the community about the prevalence of suicide in our community, our country and in the world. To that end she and John founded Kevin's Song, a nonprofit organization, whose goal it is to educate others about the suicide epidemic and to bring together the many knowledgeable people and organizations dedicated to suicide prevention. They also hope to be a resource for professionals and the general public through conferences, the website [KevinsSong.org](http://KevinsSong.org), their support of the film "Death is NOT the Answer," as well as other activities and events.



## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

### JIM ADAMS



*Director of Operations,  
Fox 2 News Member of  
Survivor Panel*

Jim Adams is a Suicide Prevention Advocate and Field Advocate for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). He is also

a Board Member of the Detroit chapter of AFSP. Mr. Adams lost his 18-year-old son, Morgan, to suicide on November 10, 2012. He is driven by the need to transform his loss into a mission of educating others, especially teens, about Depression – in hopes of preventing another suicide. Additionally, his work as Director of Broadcast Operations at Fox Television (Fox 2) is allowing him to help change the way the media covers suicide and mental health issues.

### CAROLYN BATCHELOR, LMSW



*Program Director, Health  
Professional Recovery  
Program of Michigan*

*Panel Member - The impact  
of suicide on professionals*

Carolyn joined Ulliance in 2012 with 22 years of experience in

behavioral health services. She received her Master's degree in Social Work from Wayne State University with a concentration in Occupational Social Work. She offers a wide range of experience from inpatient and outpatient psychiatric care, to employee assistance short-term treatment to long-term outpatient mental health treatment. She has provided extensive substance abuse treatment while in private practice, conducting treatment groups as well as treatment of individuals and their families faced with addiction.

As the program director of HPRP, Carolyn's responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the uninterrupted HPRP experience for participants, treatment providers and all the organizations affected by/involved with the HPRP
- Oversight of the HPRP provider network development and maintenance of ensuring strict compliance with the HPRP requirements

- Credentialing of 800 plus providers throughout the State of Michigan
- Management of day-to-day operations
- Oversight and management of the HPRP database
- HPRP reporting requirements to the State of Michigan monthly, quarterly and annually

She attended Wayne State University where she received a Masters in Social Work

### JUDITH BURDICK, M.A., L.L.P.



*"Suicide: From Stigma  
to Transformation"*

Judith Burdick is a highly-regarded licensed psychotherapist. Her practice is dedicated to individuals with a wide range of emotional and psychological issues,

yet focuses primarily on those struggling through grief and loss.

A grief survivor herself, Burdick began her own journey in understanding loss at age 31. Married with two small children, her husband of 10 years was killed in a scuba diving accident. She found herself alone, entirely overwhelmed and unprepared for what her life, and their lives, had suddenly become.

Living thousands of miles away from family and friends she knew one thing — she needed to find a way to get through this tragic loss. She searched for what meager help was available then, though none of it focused on the impact of such grief on young survivors like her. Judith discovered it wasn't enough for her to white knuckle it and survive. She needed to do something meaningful that helped her thrive and grow through her loss. So began her quest for healing, both for herself and her children. Her journey ultimately brought her back home to Michigan, where she re-enrolled at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, earning her bachelor's degree in psychology and then her master's degree in Clinical and Humanistic Psychology at The Michigan School of Professional Psychology.

Judith's workshops and the Transforming Loss film and Companion Guide provide support and inspiration for those struggling with the loss of a loved one, but are

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

also practical healing tools for therapists and health care professionals, hospice workers, clergy, funeral directors, and educators.

### GIGI COLOMBINI, LMSW



*"How a mental health professional can support someone through a suicide crisis" and "How to engage the family's help during a suicidal crisis"*

*Moderator: Survivor Panel*

Gigi Colombini is a Clinical Social Worker who, since 1990, has focused her passion on working with youth and adults who experience trauma, grief, anxiety, depression and suicide. Throughout her professional journey, Ms. Colombini has worked and supervised as a Crisis Counselor, lead and facilitated with numerous grief groups, lead CISM (Critical Stress Incident Management) trauma teams, and various community efforts throughout Oakland and Macomb counties. She currently has an outpatient practice in Birmingham, MI.

As an expert in the field of suicide prevention, Ms. Colombini has provided extensive education to youth and adults, in schools and other community settings. Most recently, she has developed, implemented and evaluated a continuity of care/family support intervention designed to enhance the safety and support of high risk youth following a suicidal emergency. The Holding On To Life Youth Suicide Prevention program, has received attention from professional institutions such as the Michigan Department of Community Health, and the National Institute for Mental Health. She has consulted on programs for Harvard, Dartmouth, the University of Michigan, and others.

### PETER DRISCOLL

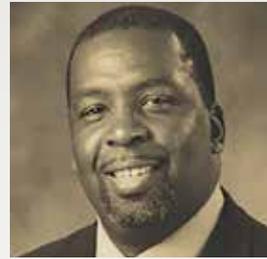


*Presentation on Choice Theory and Reality Therapy*

Peter is a retired special education teacher currently working as a Math and Science Instructional Coach with teachers in Detroit Schools.

He considers this direct experience with teachers and students in the classroom a critical component for developing his role in the educational transformation currently underway. Peter has been a faculty member of the William Glasser Institute since 1998 and currently serves on the WGI Quality School Committee.

### KEVIN FISCHER



*NAMI Michigan. Member of the Survivor Panel*

Kevin Fischer is the Executive Director of NAMI Michigan. NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization

dedicated to improving the lives of persons living with serious mental illness and their families. A retired businessman, Kevin joined NAMI as a volunteer in 2011 shortly after losing his oldest son Dominique to suicide in 2010. After serving on the NAMI Michigan Board of Directors as the NAMIWalks Chairperson for two years, and as Board Vice-President for two years, Kevin accepted the role of Executive Director in April of 2014.

Kevin is the founder of The Dominique Fischer Memorial Foundation, serves on the Board of Directors for The Guidance Center and several other organizations. Quoted as saying "this is his last job; his last fight," Kevin is dedicated to eliminating the stigma of mental illness, which he considers the leading barrier to early diagnoses and treatment.

### POLLY GIPSON, PH.D.



*"Youth Suicide Risk and Bullying: What Youth Aren't Telling You that You Need to Know"*

Polly Gipson, Ph.D., is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Child/Adolescent Section, at

the University of Michigan. Dr. Gipson is a licensed clinical psychologist. She serves as the Director of Child and Adolescent Psychology Training, Director of the Frankel Psychotherapy Program and Director of the Trauma and Grief Clinic. She is a member of the Youth

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

Depression and Suicide Prevention Research Program. Dr. Gipson's expertise is in evidence-based clinical practices, suicide risk assessment and intervention and community-based participatory research. Presently, she is a co-investigator and project coordinator of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded randomized controlled community-based effectiveness trial. This community-based project implemented in Flint, MI, is designed to prevent the initial occurrence of suicidal behavior in adolescents at elevated risk due to a recent history of peer victimization (as either a bully victim, bully perpetrator or both) and/or social disconnectedness. A mentorship strategy is employed with the primary aim to increase youths' sense of community connectedness and enhance their overall adaptive functioning. Dr. Gipson's line of research will continue to focus on community-based prevention and intervention strategies for underserved ethnic minority adolescents at elevated risk for suicidal and other adverse psychological outcomes.

### REV. MARIANNE GRANO



*Clergy Panel –  
“Acceptance and Hope:  
Perspectives on Suicide  
from Faith Traditions”*

Rev. Marianne Grano is a wife, mother, student, knitter, and follower of Christ who currently serves as Pastor

of Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak, Michigan, a congregation of 75 members in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Marianne is a survivor of clinical depression and also has many family members who have survived suicidal thoughts and attempts. She lost her cousin Nick Glaspie, age 22, to suicide in 2010. She is honored and humbled to be a part of Kevin's Song and to share Scripture's message of grace for those who have died of suicide, healing for those left behind, and hope for the hopeless.

### CARRI GRIFFIN, LMSW



*Suicide Prevention in  
Schools Safe Talk Training  
Part 1, Part 2*

Carri has been working in the field of school social work

for the past 15 years in both the elementary and secondary setting. She has assisted in facilitating the Yellow Ribbon Suicide prevention program at Roseville High School and Warren Cousino. Prior to working in the school setting, she spent 3 years working in the community mental health setting servicing adults with chronic and persistent mental illness. She is passionate about destigmatizing mental illness and supporting the need for better mental health services in the schools and community.

### GLORIA HARRINGTON, LMSW, CCRP



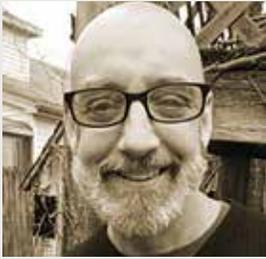
*“Bipolar Research  
Update: Impact on  
Longitudinal Studies”*

Gloria Harrington, LMSW, CCRP is the Research Manager at the University of Michigan Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund. Gloria received

her Master of Social Work with a concentration in Community Practice at Wayne State University in 2007. She is a Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP) through the Society of Clinical Research Associates. Since 2008, Gloria has been involved in bipolar research at the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry and Depression Center, and manages the large-scale Prechter Longitudinal Study of Bipolar Disorder of more than 1100 participants, and the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Genetics Repository, which entails organizing collaborative studies and facilitating data sharing within and outside of the University. As the research manager, Gloria is responsible for management, operations, and strategic planning for the research enterprise which includes assisting with grant submissions, budget oversight, hiring and staffing effort, and operationalization of scientific protocols associated with the bipolar team. Currently, she is working toward an M.B.A. in Organizational Leadership. Her goal is to carry out the mission and vision of the Heinz C. Prechter Research Fund, and facilitate global research collaborations to find effective personalized treatments for those living with this complex illness.

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

### JIM HASSETT, MA, LLPC, CT/RTC



*Presentation on Choice Theory and Reality Therapy*

Jim comes to us from the field of education, first as a long-time high school Spanish teacher, then as school counselor. Currently, Jim is Director of School Counseling

at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy. In addition, Jim works part time as a therapist at Grace Counseling Center in Detroit specializing in depression and relationship building.

Jim's professional influences include psychiatrist William Glasser, M.D. and Father Anthony de Mello, S.J. Both provide clear and compelling pathways for self-understanding, foundational for all meaningful change and the pursuit of happiness. For Glasser, the vehicle on this journey is Choice Theory and Reality Therapy, which emphasize our inner freedom to make meaningful choices, even in the midst of difficult and confusing conflicts; for de Mello, the vehicle is awareness.

Through the practice of awareness one learns to drop the impediments that keep one from waking up to the "reality of one's greatness" and becoming fully alive.

As a faculty member of the William Glasser Institute, and as a graduate of The Two Year Internship in Ignatian Spirituality – a spirituality that was cornerstone to de Mello's life and teaching — Jim is inspired to share with others his understanding of these powerful tools for the health they have brought to his life and the lives of his students and clients, and by way of gratitude for the wise counsel he has received over the years from so many good teachers and mentors, therapists and advisors, family and friends, parents and students.

### YVETTE HOURIGAN



*Director of Kentucky Lawyer Assistance Program*

*Panel Member - The impact of suicide on professionals*

Yvette Hourigan was born and

raised in Louisville, KY. She graduated from Murray State University and then the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1988. After a clerkship with the (former) Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, she began her litigation career in product liability defense. She opened her own firm in 1998 where she practiced in all areas of civil litigation, including plaintiff's personal injury work. She has been the director of KYLAP since 2011. KYLAP's work on lawyer and law student depression and suicide prevention has been featured nationally in The Huffington Post, USA Today, and on television on CNN's Legal View with Ashleigh Banfield. In 2014, Yvette was awarded the Dave Nee Foundation's national Uncommon Counselor Award at Lincoln Center. The Uncommon Counselor Award is given annually to one member of the legal profession who exhibits extraordinary compassion and concern for co-workers, family, friends, and community. Yvette is married and lives with her family in Lexington, Kentucky.

### DR. EDWARD JOUNEY, D.O.



*Clinical Instructor, Department of Psychiatry, U of M*

*Panel Member - The impact of suicide on professionals*

Dr. Jouney is an addiction psychiatrist, at the University of Michigan. He earned his medical degree from Michigan State University, and completed his general psychiatry residency, and addiction psychiatry fellowship, at the University of Michigan. He is board-certified in the general psychiatry, addiction psychiatry, and addiction medicine. He has lectured on addiction and psychiatric topics throughout the state of Michigan. Dr. Jouney's clinical interest include addiction and chronic pain, addiction in pregnancy, and how addiction affects healthcare providers. He is involved in medical education, and assists in the training of medical students, and residence from various specialties, at the University of Michigan's medical school.

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

### JOE KORT, PH.D.



*"Understanding Males Who've Been Sexually Abused and Why They Attempt Suicide"*

Joe Kort, Ph.D., is a clinical sexologist and relationship therapist, coach and founded his practice in 1985. His

specialties include: IMAGO Relationship Therapy, sex therapy, sexual identity issues, out-of-control sexual behaviors, responsible non-monogamy/monogamy; childhood sexual, physical and emotional abuse; mixed-orientation marriages; and depression and anxiety.

Dr. Kort writes for Huffington Post, Psychology Today and has been interviewed and mentioned on a regular basis in the New York Times on various issues.

Dr. Kort is the author of four books:

10 Smart Things Gay Men Can Do to Improve Their Lives and 10 Smart Things Gay Men Can Do to Find Real Love and Gay Affirmative Therapy for the Straight Clinician: The Essential Guide and Is My Husband Gay, Straight or Bi: A Guide for Women Concerned About Their Men.

Joe's website can be found at [www.JoeKort.com](http://www.JoeKort.com) and his twitter is @drjoekort

### NICOLE LAW, PSY.D.



*"The Hidden Risks of LGBT Youth"*

Nicole has a diverse set of experience in outpatient, university counseling, multicultural, LGBT issues, grief and loss. Living in Brazil and conducting seminars on the

influence culture has on business practices sparked her passion for multiculturalism. Nicole believes we are made of a combination of cultural, biological, emotional and interpersonal experiences that all play an important role in who we are today. Nicole has a way of making people feel comfortable talking about

almost anything and believes that therapy should be a collaborative experience between clients and therapist.

Nicole has degrees in both literature and psychology and describes them as two different perspectives on the human experience. She received her masters and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from the Michigan School of Professional Psychology where her dissertation research focused on struggles of miscarriage and pregnancy loss. Looking at problems from a biological, social and interpersonal perspective allows Nicole to find treatment options that are tailored to each individual.

Nicole's areas of focus include pregnancy and reproductive concerns, grief and loss, sexual/gender identity, and adolescent/young adult adjustment issues.

Nicole is under the supervision of Lawrence Wentworth, Ph.D. She can be reached by phone at 248.291.7293 or email at [nicole.b.law@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.b.law@gmail.com).

### AMELIA LEHTO



*"Social Media Skills: New Media for Messaging"*

Amelia Lehto is the RCH Coordinator- Suicide Prevention at Common Ground an agency which helps people move from crisis to hope through a variety of

programs and services in Oakland County, Michigan. Her position serves several functions ultimately supporting those intimately affected by suicide. In this role she supervises the Resource & Crisis Helpline via phones, chat and text, as part of the Coordinator team which provides guidance, support and training to our volunteers and interns.

In which she provides outreach, support and information to those bereaved by suicide through our Survivors of Suicide Loss Program. Specializing in suicide prevention and postvention on the local, state and national levels through trainings, advocacy and innovative technology. Amelia is a team leader on Common Ground's Crisis Response Team, which provides debriefings in the community to those involved in a traumatic event. She is a Certified

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor and a LivingWorks ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and suicideTALK Trainer. She has sat on the Board of Directors for the Oakland County Crisis Response Organization 2010-2013 and sits on the Board of Directors for Six Feet Over. Amelia also is involved with many suicide prevention coalitions and taskforces throughout the community.

After experiencing loss at a young age she discovered that one is not defined by how they died, but how they lived. And so it's been her life mission to improve the lives of those around me through love, listening and laughter. To quote the famous and favorite Lorax, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

You can also find her on Twitter @Atoes84.

### LYNN MAITLAND, PH.D., LMSW



*Vice President of Mission and Ethics at UH St. John Medical Center, Cleveland. Moderator, Clergy Panel*

Lynn has a Masters in Social Work, a Masters in Medical Ethics, and a Ph.D. in Moral Philosophy. For over fifteen

years Lynn was a social worker at Lutheran General Hospital, a teaching hospital with a Level 1 trauma center, in suburban Chicago. Lynn worked with acute rehab patients and families, and followed the trauma patients during their stay. During that time, she helped develop a Palliative Care Program and taught ethics to medical residents. She then served as Director of Ethics and Education at The Park Ridge Center for Health, Faith, and Ethics, and ethics think tank in Chicago where she was responsible planning educational events and ethics consultation for two inner city hospitals.

Lynn served as Director of Ethics at Mount Carmel Health System in Columbus, and System Vice President of Mission and Ethics for Trinity Health in Livonia, MI. Currently, she is Vice President of Mission and Ethics at UH St. John Medical Center, part of the University Hospitals System in Cleveland. She oversees the ethics program, palliative care, community outreach,

and pastoral care. Since 2011, Lynn has been Adjunct Assoc. Professor at Georgetown University Graduate School of Nursing.

### KEN MEISEL



*Psychotherapist, LMSW*

*Panel Member - The impact of suicide on professionals*

Ken Meise, LMSW, has been licensed to practice psychotherapy since 1986. He achieved an undergraduate

degree in Social Work from Wayne State University in 1985, and a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology from The Center for Humanistic Studies (now The Michigan School of Professional Psychology) in 1986. Prior to gaining his Masters Degree, Mr. Meisel worked as a youth counselor for runaways on Detroit's east side. Currently he specializes in individual and marital therapy, and has maintained an active private practice serving individuals, families and marriages since 1988. Mr. Meisel is clinically trained to provide marital therapy and EMDR. He has presented widely since 1998 on topics that include marriage, parenting, eating disorders and trauma. In November, 2015, Mr. Meisel presented to the Wayne County Family Bar Association on the effects of Secondary Trauma among legal professionals. In addition to working as an LMSW, Mr. Meisel is a 2012 Kresge Arts Literary Fellow, and the author of five books of poetry. His most recent book of poetry, *The Drunken Sweetheart At My Door*, was published in 2015. Proceeds of books sales will be donated to First Step, an organization that assists women in escaping domestic violence.

### ANGELA D'AGOSTINI-MILLER, LMSW



*Suicide Prevention in Schools Safe Talk Training Part 1, Part 2*

Angela D'Agostini-Miller graduated from Wayne State University, and holds a Master's Degree in School Social Work. She has presented

programs on Suicide Prevention to students, parents and staff at Warren Consolidated School District. Her

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

passion is working with high school students on suicide prevention education and eradicating the stigma of mental illness and promoting the need for the expansion and comprehensive mental health services. Formerly, she was a Clinician and Program Coordinator for Catholic Services of Macomb. She is also trained in grief and loss counseling.

### JEAN NEMENZIK, LMSW



*"Understanding Common Mental Health Crisis and Practical Ways to Respond: A pre-view of Mental Health First Aid"*

Jean Nemenzik is the Director of the Clinical Department at Kadima, a Southfield based mental health organization serving individuals with chronic and persistent mental illness. Jean's 20 years of experience in social work include the administrative and clinical management of programs serving the severely, persistently mentally ill in both clinical and residential settings. She has extensive experience in the implementation and operation of evidence based practices including Assertive Community Treatment, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Multi-Family Group Therapy, Parent Management Training and Motivational Interviewing. Jean received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan where she studied both macro and micro social work practice. Prior to joining Kadima, Jean served as the Clinical Director for Hope Network, Behavioral Health Services for seven years. She has also taught social work at Saginaw Valley State University and has worked in private practice at Catholic Family Services and the Dialectical Behavioral Center of Michigan.

### SETH PERSKY



*Director of the Office of Family Advocate, DHHS, State of Michigan.*

*Moderator: State of Michigan Update*

Seth is the director of the Office of Family Advocate, a unit within DHHS Children's Services Agency which

focuses solely on issues of child welfare. Seth started his career as a foster care worker and then worked as a supervisor with Michigan's progressive Family Preservation programs. He served as a specially certified trainer for the state for over 10 years, developing and presenting trainings to thousands of staff and community members on all topics involving family preservation and child welfare. Seth obtained his Bachelors of Psychology and Masters of Social Work from University of Michigan and lives in Detroit, Michigan.

### MATTHEW OWENS, CNO



*Oakland County Mental Health Authority*

*State of Michigan update*

Matthew Owens has 20 years experience in the mental health field, working within a vast spectrum of public mental health agencies throughout the tri-county region. Mr. Owens currently holds the CNO position at Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA). Prior to this position, Mr. Owens served as director of Business Management and Provider Network for Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH). Other positions he has held in the past two decades include, program director for Common Ground's crisis center, OACIS, as well as provider contract manager, access/utilization manager, contractual therapist for MCCMH, and adjunct instructor of psychology.

In his current role as CNO, Mr. Owens is responsible for the overall planning, development, and implementation of programs and operations with OCCMHA's service network, quality improvement, and provider network management teams.

Mr. Owens received his Master of Arts in Counseling from Oakland University in 2000 and his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Michigan State University in 1995.

Mr. Owens' experience with crisis services, assessment and evaluation, as well as the clinical, business and administrative aspects of community mental health systems lends him to be a well-rounded addition to our conference panel.

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

### CRISTINA RITZ



*Director of Business Management, Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH)*

*Member of State of Michigan Update Panel*

Coordinates contract service agreements and monitors providers for adherence to contractual obligations

- Ensure contract providers maintain compliance with Federal, State and County policies/regulations such as the Michigan Mental Health Code and Macomb County MCO Policies as well as procedures.
- Ensure contract providers adhere to professional standards as set in place by federal, state, and local requirements as well as NCQA and CARF standards.
- Provide recommendations for contract language in support the scope of service.
- Manage contracting process including Provider Profile Application, Provider Registration, and background verification/training requirements.

### DR. IMAM ACHMAT SALIE



*Clergy Panel – “Acceptance and Hope: Perspectives on Suicide from Faith Traditions”*

Dr. Imam Achmat Salie has been in the metropolitan Detroit area for 17 years. He has founded an Islamic studies program at Oakland University in 2006 and another at the University of Detroit Mercy in 2011 where he directs a successful program. He has been an imam at many mega mosques in Michigan and Toledo. Imam Salie spiritual counseling's for the past 30 years has been varied. He lives in Rochester Hills with his wife, two tween sons and two teen daughters. His academic preparation includes degrees in Islamic Jurisprudence, Arabic, Education, Business, and is currently completing a second PhD. Dr Salie has traveled extensively nationally and abroad to speak on topics such as nonviolence, democracy, architecture, transformative

values, philanthropy, biomedical ethics, education, an epistemology of discomfort, and civic engagement. Dr. Salie believes in creating compassionate communities of conscience and in a spirituality that is righteous and not self-righteous- avoiding a rush to judgment.

### ANDREA L. SMITH, MSW



*QPR Training*

Andrea Smith currently serves as a Manager of Clinical Specialist with the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority. This role is primarily responsible for assisting in the development, implementation,

and monitoring of clinical service models to align them with evidence based, best and/or promising practices while assessing workforce needs, and strategically planning and implementing ways to address the gaps through training and Grantsmanship.

Andrea is certified by the QPR Institute as a QPR Instructor, focusing on suicide prevention and awareness. She is also certified by the National Council for Behavioral Healthcare as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor, with certification to teach the Adult, Youth, Military, Veterans and Families, Public Safety, and Higher Education Curricula for various groups to provide an introductory overview of behavioral health issues that they may encounter in their daily positions.

Andrea received her Master of Social Work degree from Eastern Michigan University and has held positions of Program Evaluator, Project Manager, Veteran Supportive Housing Coordinator, Guest Lecturer, Research Associate, and Child Development Specialist. She is passionate about homeless military veterans and minorities who are educationally and economically disadvantaged.

She resides in Canton, Michigan with her husband of twelve years; a Military Combat Veteran, and their young children.

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

### PAT SMITH

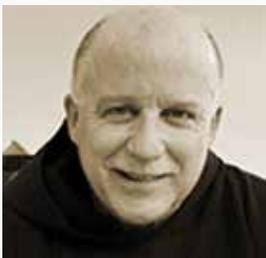


*Violence Prevention Program Coordinator in the Injury & Violence Prevention Unit of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

*State of Michigan update*

Pat Smith is the Violence Prevention Program Coordinator in the Injury & Violence Prevention Unit of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She serves as the Director and Principal Investigator for the Michigan Violent Death Reporting System and the Director of the department's Youth Suicide Prevention Program. She is a member of the Data & Surveillance Task Force of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and previously served on the Steering Committee for the national Suicide Prevention Resource Center. She has worked in injury prevention and control at MDCH for over 20 years, specifically on violence for most of that time. Outside of work, she has completed 13 marathons and her favorite pastime is being one of the coaches with a women's Couch-to-5k training group that has over 200 members.

### BROTHER RAY STADMEYER, OSM, CAP.



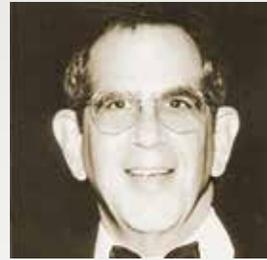
*Clergy Panel – "Acceptance and Hope: Perspectives on Suicide from Faith Traditions"*

Br. Ray received his BA in Psychology from St. John's University in Jamaica, New York and has worked in different

social service agencies serving different populations from youth to the elderly. He entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order in 1990 and received a Master in Divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in 1997. His work has been mostly in the inner city of Detroit and has been involved in ministry through the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. His present ministry is with returning citizens and/or those who have completed substance abuse treatment. Br. Ray and the men have begun a social enterprise called On the Rise Bakery/Café on the east side of Detroit.

The residential program assists men in receiving training in the baking industry as well as the life skills necessary to be a productive member of the community. In addition, he is currently Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish and Nativity of our Lord Parish on the east side of Detroit.

### RABBI DANIEL B. SYME



*Clergy Panel – "Acceptance and Hope: Perspectives on Suicide from Faith Traditions"*

Lifestyles magazine's readers voted Rabbi Daniel Syme one of the 18 North American Jews "who will be most influential in

shaping the future of the Jewish community in the 90's and into the 21st Century.

This compliment comes highly merited. The new spiritual leader of Temple Beth El carries with him an impressive resume to his position. But more importantly, he draws on his life's experiences to bring compassion, caring and determination to the Temple that accomplishments alone can not convey.

Syme spent 23 years with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, most recently as the senior vice-president. He oversaw all of the UAHC's programs, including his special interests of outreach, education, television and film production, and the task force on youth suicide prevention.

After graduating from the University of Michigan with Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1967, Syme was preparing to continue his education and accept a fellowship in psychology. However, at age 21, a near fatal bout of cancer changed his life forever. Prior to surgery, he asked his father, Rabbi Robert Syme of Temple Israel, to get him an application to the Hebrew Union College. He said that if he recovered he was going to devote his life to God.

That vow held true, and five years later Syme was ordained from the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati campus in 1972. While at HUC, he won the Farband Hebrew prize, the Sulzberger Award in Homiletics and the Lazarus Prize for academic excellence. He also earned a doctorate in education from Columbia

## BREAKOUT PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS:

University Teachers College, and taught at the New York campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

His intense drive led to numerous accomplishments as both an author and executive producer. He is a published author or co-author of 26 books, on topics such as Jewish parenting, youth suicide prevention, Christian-Jewish Relations, Jewish social action, ritual, theology and Jewish education.

Temple Beth El's motto is "Come Home to Beth El". A native of the Detroit Area, Rabbi Syme feels that he has truly come home.

### TISH VINCENT



*State Bar of Michigan*

*Panel Moderator -  
The impact of suicide  
on professionals*

Tish Vincent joined the staff of the State Bar of Michigan as the Program Administrator for the Lawyers & Judges Assistance Program in April 2012 bringing twenty-six years of experience as a mental health professional and five years of experience as an attorney. She began her career in mental health offering outreach to therapists struggling with their own eating disorders. After earning her Masters in Social Work she worked at Community Mental Health, Saint Lawrence Health System Psychiatry and Addiction Units, Psychological Health Systems Behavioral Medicine Managed Care Organization, conducted trainings for the State of Michigan Department of Human Services and maintained a private practice. She has developed expertise working with professionals who are struggling with addiction and mental health challenges. Ms. Vincent chose law as her second career and practiced Health Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution in the mid-Michigan area. She is an ICLE contributor, a provider for the Health Professionals Recovery Program, and an immediate past board member of the mid-Michigan Chapter of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids and a Masters of Social Work and a Juris Doctor from Michigan State University.

### LAWRENCE WENTWORTH, PH.D.



*"EMDR as a suicide prevention psychotherapy and EMDR as a treatment modality for those who have lost a loved one"*

Dr. Wentworth has met stringent practice standards and criteria to be deemed a specialist in the following areas: Anxiety Disorders, Sexual Disorders, Hypnotherapy, EMDR, Trauma, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, (GLBT).

As of 5/24/2015, Dr. Wentworth has completed a three-year immersion learning program in the Systemic and Phenomenological process of the Constellation Approach and Family Constellation Methodology, facilitated by Jamy Faust, M.A., and Peter Faust, M.A.C.

Michigan Certification Board of Addiction Professionals certifies that I have met the requirements for the Certified Advanced Addictions Counselor. Cert# C-02027.

Dr. Wentworth has been practicing in the tri-county area for over 25 years. He is fully licensed as a psychologist in Michigan and Florida. He is certified in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)—an integrative psychotherapy approach. He is also an approved EMDR consultant for therapists seeking certification. Dr. Wentworth is a Diplomat in Clinical Psychology granted by the American Board of Professional Psychology. This means he has submitted videos and transcripts of his clinical work with clients for review by the board. Dr. Wentworth is Humanistic in his approach and believes that the keys to healing lie within each of us. He works to facilitate our innate ability to heal to overcome distressing life events and self-defeating behaviors.

Dr. Wentworth is dedicated, not only to helping his clients reach their potential, he also is dedicated to training. He supervises and trains many on his staff and regularly supervises Master's level and Doctoral level interns. He also offers support to KnowResolve, a Nonprofit Suicide prevention organization and is an annual sponsor of their "Walk for Awareness" event, as well as, their annual benefit concert and dinner.

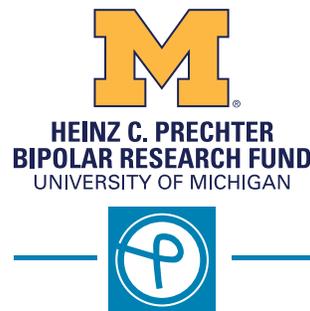
# WE THANK OUR VALUABLE SPONSORS FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE



**DOLORES AND  
PAUL LAVINS  
FOUNDATION**



**HAVENWYCK  
HOSPITAL**





# A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

*A healthier community.*



all for you

Henry Ford Behavioral Health is pleased to support Kevin's Song, and to be a part of "The Silent Epidemic - A Conference on Suicide." We salute the caring professionals and support organizations who have come together with the same goal we aspire to every day, zero suicides - no lives lost.

[www.henryford.com](http://www.henryford.com)