

November 2019



Spiritual Care

Grief Support

In many cultures and traditions November is a season of remembrance of loved ones, friends and colleagues who have died. The Spiritual Care team supported patients, families, and staff in their celebration of Día de los Muertos and All Saints' Day November 1 & 2 with a special table in the Leavey Interfaith center, Mass and Tea for the Soul.

Throughout the year the team facilitated Tea for the Soul, unit gatherings and house-wide **memorial services** for staff members who died. CHLA teams are often "family" at work and the sudden death of a colleague often results in shock, trauma, grief and sadness for the entire team. The chaplains – often in collaboration with the Employee Assistance Program – assist team members to come together, share memories, express their feelings and support each other.



The Role of Spiritual Support in Coping with Crisis

On July 24, 2019 our chaplains provided a lecture at Clinical Services Grand Rounds on the topic "The Role of Spiritual Support in Coping with Crisis". The team introduced the psychological concept of spiritual/religious coping, data about its importance for patients and families and shared clinical cases of their work with patients and families. The session was well attended, and we thank Spiritual Care Advisory Board Member Ron Preissman for generously sponsoring lunch for everyone.



Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education Updates



Chaplaincy Innovation Lab

Rev. Dagmar Grefe, PhD, was selected to participate in the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab project **“Educating Effective Chaplains”** organized by Boston University, School of Theology, and Brandeis University.

The project synthesizes current scholarship and practitioner expertise about the nature of effective chaplaincy and strengthens scholarship and curricula to better train future generations of chaplains in light of broader changes in American religious demographics.

Mindfulness Meditation and Community Resiliency Training

In addition to Tuesday’s Drop-in Meditation in the Leavey Interfaith Center, facilitated by Buddhist M.Div. students and spiritual care team members, Fr. Tim Meier, SJ, PhD, has begun leading weekly meditation sessions with nurses on 6West. The sessions have been well received.

Rev. Dagmar Grefe, Chaplain Jeanie Ju and Chaplain Lucio Cruz are certified trainers of Community Resiliency™ for CHLA and teach RN Residents and other staff several wellness skills that help manage the stress of caring for serious and critical children.



Clinical Pastoral Education

Chaplain Residents 2019- 2020

Our Residency Program is mainly supported by philanthropy. We are grateful to the Foundation, the Spiritual Care Guild and individual donors who assist our work supporting our patients, their families and staff. This year’s funding allows us to have four full-time chaplain residents and one part time intern.

Anica Leitch completed her Masters in Intercultural Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. She brings rich experience working with children of different developmental stages in non-profit organizations and completed her spiritual care internship at CHLA. She is part of a nondenominational Christian community.

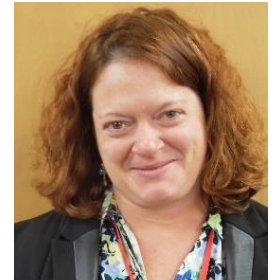


Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education Updates



Rabbi Michele Lenke was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institution of Religion in 1996. She served several congregations in the greater Boston area. Rabbi Lenke is a past president of the Women's Rabbinic Network and completed one unit of CPE at CHLA in 2018-2019.

Amy Obrist is seeking ordination in the Presbyterian Church, USA after a 20-year career as professor of Russian, German, and world literature in higher education. She earned a B.Phil. in German and Russian at the University of Pittsburgh, an M.A. and PhD in Russian at the University of Southern CA, and an M.Div. from Talbot Seminary.



Rev. Joseph Isip is ordained in the Calvary Baptist Church (CBC) and US Army Chaplain (USAR). In his previous career he served as a school teacher; he completed his MDiv at Liberty University and his first unit of CPE at Madigan Army Medical Center in Oregon.

Hannah Attema is pursuing her M.Div. at Fuller Theological Seminary and completes her internship at CHLA. She is part of a nondenominational Christian community and brings rich experience working with children to CPE.

