

Curriculum Vitae

Reverend Jennifer Block, MA

Contact Information

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Summary Profile

Jennifer Block is an Interfaith minister and Buddhist chaplain who has practiced Zen, Vipassana and Yoga since 1988. Her life's work is to care for people in crisis, mentoring caregivers, and teaching people how to access their innate capacity for caring and healing.

Based in San Francisco, Jennifer is a nationally-recognized educator and consultant to many organizations and businesses. She provides individual care and conducts workshops bridging spiritual, hospice, and contemplative care modalities.

As one of the first Buddhist chaplains in the country, Jennifer brings 12+ years of hospice, grief, and chaplaincy experience to her work with caregivers, clinicians, chaplaincy students, and especially those who are facing the spiritual and emotional issues related to aging, sickness, dying and grief. Her skills as an engaging teacher and facilitator are matched by the ease and authenticity of her caregiving practice.

From 2004-2011, Jennifer served as the Director of Education & Chaplain at Zen Hospice Project, creating a curriculum based on their mission and contemplative care approach. She now continues her work with Zen Hospice Project as a consultant.

Jennifer serves as core faculty at the Sati Center for Buddhist Studies in Redwood City, CA, where she introduces Buddhist practitioners to the professional practice of spiritual care through their Buddhist Chaplaincy Training Program. Jennifer completed her undergraduate degree at Boston University (1985), and her theology degree at Naropa University (2000).

Employment History

Zen Hospice Project, San Francisco, CA

2004 - 2011

Education Director & Chaplain

- Provide extensive spiritual care to staff, volunteers, residents, families, and visitors.
- Design and implement workshops, volunteer trainings, and events to assist people facing life threatening illness, their family and friends, and end-of-life care clinicians.
- Develop curriculum, recruit and train volunteers in the integration of spiritual practice and compassionate care.
- Ensure that community education programs have a foundation in Buddhist teachings that foster awareness and compassion in facing death.

Sati Center for Buddhist Studies, Redwood City, CA

2003 - present

Co-founder and teacher of Buddhist Chaplaincy Training Program

- Develop curriculum recruit and train Buddhist practitioners in the integration of spiritual practice and compassionate care
- Teach and facilitate chaplaincy students

St. Mary's Medical Center, San Francisco, CA

1999 - 2003

CPE Supervisor In Training & Chaplain, 1999-2003

- Teach, facilitate, and evaluate chaplaincy students

- Create and implement workshops on stress reduction and end-of-life care for hospital staff
- Provide ministry to the dying in culturally diverse settings
- Provide bedside spiritual care
- Administrate and coordinate pastoral education program

Chaplain resident 1998 - 1999
 Successfully completed 4 units of CPE

Chaplaincy Institute for Arts and Interfaith Ministries, San Rafael, CA 1998-Present
 Adjunct faculty, 1998-present

- Teach spiritual care curriculum related to health care
- Advise students for field placement and clinical training

Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center, Santa Cruz, CA 1995 - 1997
 Guest Services Associate

- Provide logistical and comfort support for patients and families.

Kripalu Center of Yoga & Health, Lenox, MA 1989-1995
 Resident member of religious order

- Provide project management and support services for large retreat center.
- Orient visitors to philosophy, spiritual practices, and schedule.

Education

New Ventures West, San Francisco, CA
 Integral Coach Training, 2007

Zen Hospice Project, San Francisco, CA
 End-of-Life Counselor Training Program 2002

St. Mary's Medical Center, San Francisco, CA
 CPE Supervisory Training 1999-2004
 Clinical Pastoral Education 1998-1999

Naropa University, Oakland, CA/Boulder, CO
 Masters of Arts in Creation Spirituality 1999

Interfaith Seminary, Santa Cruz, CA
 Ordination as Interfaith minister 1998

Boston University, Boston, MA
 Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications 1985

Presentations/Teaching Experience – Examples

When	Who	TOPIC/TITLE	TYPE/WHERE
Sept.-July annually since 2003	Buddhist students	Intro to Buddhist Chaplaincy	Year-long training; Sati Center for Buddhist Studies, Redwood City, CA
April '11	Hospice staff	Cultural Humility	Lecture San Francisco
March '11	Chaplains	Countering Compassion Fatigue: The Caregiver's Challenge	Workshop: Association of Professional Chaplains – Annual Conference, Dallas
May '10	Hospice staff	Caregivers Renewal Retreat	Workshop: Kaiser Hospice of the South Bay, Mountain View, CA
January '09	Chaplains	10 Stories, Three Streams:	Workshop: Association of Professional

		Teaching Tales from Buddhism	Chaplains – Annual Conference, Orlando
December '08	Women's Residence	The Journey of Grief	Support Group: Sister Mary Elizabeth Inn; San Francisco, CA
October '08	9 Senior executives	Contemplating Death as Metaphor for Organizational Change	Workshop: Proctor & Gamble Corp.; Cincinnati, OH
October '07	Hospice staff	Caregivers Renewal Retreat	Workshop: Visiting Nurses of New York; New York City, NY
Sept '07	Volunteers & staff	Companioning the Dying, Being Present as a Caregiver	Daylong Workshop: East Washington State Caregiver Conference; WA
April '07	Chaplains	Compassionate Contemplative Care: An introduction to the ZHP Approach	Lecture: Association of Professional Chaplains – Annual Conference, Pittsburgh

Professional Qualifications

- Association of Professional Chaplains, Provisional Certified chaplain
- Ordination to Ministry by Interfaith Seminary of Santa Cruz
- Zen Hospice Project, End-of-Life Counselor

Professional Memberships/Affiliations

- National Hospice and Palliative Care Association
- Association of Professional Chaplains
- San Francisco End-of-Life Coalition
- Professional Grief Caregivers Network
- California Hospital and Palliative Care Association
- American Society on Aging
- California Coalition for Compassionate Care
- New York Center for Contemplative Care, advisory board member
- Buddhist Recovery Network, advisory board member