

# My Life, My Death, My Choices

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Viewing the short film *CELLO*, followed by a discussion and Q & A with the following panelists...



**HELEN NIGHTENGALE**, Producer of *Cello* and wife of late actor, Lynn Harrell, who stars in *Cello*, Helen Nightengale started her career as a violinist performing in many ensembles from Los Angeles to London. She has recorded on more than 500 Film, TV and Video Game Titles including "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," "Schindler's List," "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Titanic," and many more. Enlisting Oscar and Grammy-nominated composer, Randy Kerber, Emmy award-winning composer/arranger William Ross, and some of Los Angeles's best musicians, the *Cello* story is elevated by a sublime musical score. This is a unique opportunity to tell a story in which classical music plays a central role, in the story.

**SUSAN WILHOIT, MD**, is a fellowship-trained, board certified hospice and palliative medicine physician and a death doula. She is a National Medical Director at Compassion and Choices, a Palliative Medicine Consultant, and this summer will be launching her own full-spectrum end-of-life practice, Rocky Mountain Compassionate Care. Through her work, she strives to help patients feel seen and heard. She advocates for their autonomy so they can be empowered to seek the care that best aligns with their values. Dr. Wilhoit hopes that all of her patients live their lives in ways that are meaningful to them and does her best to ensure that their deaths are also full of meaning, authenticity, and peace.

**LINDA WALLACE** has been interested in compassionate end-of-life care for the last four decades. She helped start Bristlecone Hospice, serving Summit and Eagle counties 42 years ago and since then has been a hospice volunteer and companion to folks as they navigate end of life choices. She completed Naropa's Contemplative End of Life Care program and helped support her own partner last year when he chose to use Medical Aid in Dying at the end of his life.

**CLAIRE RILEY RN, MS** served on the TRU Ethics Committee for many years providing consultation services to patients, families and staff dealing with clinical ethical issues which seeks to answer the question "what is the right thing to do now?" She was a part of the Conversation Project both on the advisory board and as a coach to assist patients and families construct a conversation about one's wishes for healthcare, particularly end-of-life care. Claire is also on the governing Board at TRU.

**ALEXANDER CRAVEN**, Producer of *Cello*, is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker whose love for cinema was ignited by his grandfather, a jazz musician. In college, he helped start a private satellite-based IP-TV network that quickly grew to over 350 nightlife locations, delivering custom content and advertising. He then worked for Gore Verbinski's Blindwink during production of *RANGO* and attended Art Center College of Design for his MFA, where his directing work won the departmental scholarship both years. After a year of commercial production, a short he produced caught the attention of John Williams. Alexander's work represents a bravely-human approach to suspense stories that explore modern identity and garners empathy for those on the fringe of society in fresh ways.

**KIM MOONEY** is an internationally-recognized Thanatologist and received the Association for Death Education and Counseling first Community Educator award. Since 1991, she has been a professional advocate for ethical and quality end-of-life choices and grief education and support. She is an educator and consultant for individuals, families, hospices, faith communities, corporations, health care organizations, and national end-of-life initiatives. Her work has included developing teams and programs on grief, crisis response, caregiving and end of life planning, and she serves on both hospital and hospice ethics committees. She is also a founding member of End-of-Life Options Colorado. Her company, Practically Dying (Practically-Dying.com) is an educational and support resource whose mission is to help us remember how to engage birth, life and death as opportunities to live without hesitation and die without regret. She is co-founded The Conversation Project in Boulder County over 10 years ago.

**JEAN ABBOTT, MD, MH** is our panel moderator. Jean is a retired physician who practiced and taught emergency medicine for 48 years, mostly at University Hospital and School of Medicine and Anschutz Medical Center. Jean also led the ethics consultation service there. She is still a member of the Ethics Committees at Boulder Community Health, TRU Hospice and an ethics consultation service for the national clinicians' group supporting professionals caring for patients considering MAID. She is one of six woman who help start The Conversation Project in Boulder county a little over ten years ago.