



Volunteer Hospice
OF CLALLAM COUNTY

SOUL CARE
SPEAKER SERIES

Prison Terminal:

The Last Days of Jack Hall

Documentary and panel discussion with

Lisa Deal, Susan Barber, Fernando Murillo, and Edgar Barens

from the



Wednesday July 10, 2024, noon – 1:30 PM

FREE – Online – Register [HERE](#)

Information: astrid.r@vhocc.org or 360-452-1511

Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall is a poignant cinéma vérité documentary that transcends the confines of one of the United States' oldest maximum-security prisons. It chronicles the closing chapters in the life of a terminally ill resident and the selfless hospice volunteers, his peers, who tend to his needs. The documentary is crafted from footage recorded during a six-month period within the formidable walls of the Iowa State Penitentiary. It offers a compelling and often emotionally charged narrative of how the hospice experience can profoundly impact the lives of those experiencing incarceration.

The mission of the Humane Prison Hospice Project is to transform the way incarcerated people die through education, advocacy, and training to support incarcerated peers as caregivers and grief companions. Through community education, outreach, and in-prison programming, we are developing a

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humanitarian, cost-effective, and restorative justice solution to ensure that those aging and dying in prison receive compassionate care.

Panel discussion with Lisa Deal, Susan Barber, Fernando Murillo, and Edgar Barens

Lisa Deal, Executive Director

As a community health nurse caring for AIDS patients in Boston during the late 1980s, Lisa discovered her passion for being with the dying. Following that profound experience, Lisa's life took her down a variety of paths as a clinician, research associate, policy analyst/editor, and grants officer. She earned master's degrees in public health and nursing from the University of Washington and a doctorate in public health from Harvard University. After the tragic deaths of her younger brother, her dear friend and pastor, and her father — all within a three-year span — Lisa felt called to return to caring for the dying.



In 2010, Lisa joined Mission Hospice & Home Care as a hospice and palliative care nurse and worked in clinical and leadership roles for the next nine years, directing the Palliative Care Program and the Community Outreach Program, and serving as Chief Clinical Officer and finally Chief Executive Officer until 2019. Under her leadership, Mission Hospice became the clinical sponsor for Humane's work to train the Brothers' Keepers prisoners at San Quentin State Prison to be compassionate end-of-life caregivers. Visiting with the men at San Quentin was another life-changing experience for Lisa, and today she feels honored to be able to combine her passions for working with the dying and serving those behind bars through the Humane Prison Hospice Project. Lisa also serves on the Board of Directors for GAIA Global Health and Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., and she is a lay chaplain for the Santa Clara County jails.

Susan Barber, Program Director

Susan's work in end-of-life care happened by accident during the AIDS epidemic when dozens of her friends became ill and many died. The support she found in the Center for Attitudinal Healing, a group of Buddhist monks and nuns, and Stephen and Ondrea Levine's work on death and dying allowed her to enter into these deaths with compassion and less fear. After spending 10 years caring for friends and family who were dying, Susan became a hospice volunteer coordinator. She spent 25 years, first at Sutter Care at Home and then at Mission Hospice & Home Care, training more than 600 people in San Mateo County, California, to provide bedside hospice care to thousands of people.



At Mission Hospice & Home Care, she founded, grew, and managed the Community Education Program. The work that resonated with her most deeply during her tenure there was the partnership with Humane Prison Hospice Project's pilot program to train 16 prisoners in Compassionate End-of-

Life Care at San Quentin. A second cohort completed training just one week prior to California's shut-down due to COVID-19.

For Susan, working with incarcerated people and training them in compassionate end-of-life care and grief companionship is the realization of a dream she has had for almost 20 years.

Fernando Murillo, Program Manager

Fernando Murillo is a Berkeley native and worked in the only licensed hospice in the state of California prison system for five years. Fernando received training for end-of-life palliative care from USC and UC Davis for hospice care in a correctional setting. Fernando has facilitated numerous criminal justice classes at San Francisco's Urban High School to educate the youth about the imperative need to redefine how we see humanity from the community to carceral settings. Fernando has been a contributor to The Aging Research in Correctional Health Care network, including his participation in panel discussions. During Fernando's 24 years of incarceration, he committed himself to improving the overall quality of life in the correctional setting for everyone present, staff and incarcerated people alike.



Edgar Barends, Documentarian / Spokesperson

As a documentary filmmaker, Edgar has a notable record of successful production in very stressful prison environments. His Academy Award-nominated (2014) documentary, Prison Terminal, has screened in more than 60 prisons and at more than 80 colleges, universities, and community centers. Edgar takes great satisfaction in his ability to tackle large-scale problems within the American criminal justice system and present them on a very personal level so that the destructive impact of a dysfunctional correctional system can be made more palpable to the viewer. He took on the mission to document one of the few positive programs behind bars that exists today in the hope that other facilities will emulate Iowa State Penitentiary's prisoner-run hospice program and instill much-needed dignity to dying in prison for all concerned.



VHOCC Speaker Series, a SOUL CARE Program

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