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敦珠佛學會(國際)

Dudjom Buddhist Association (International)

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Love Ideas ♥ HK

集思公益計劃資助項目

香港仁愛香港

Life and Death Education Series: Seminar on “The Light of Life”

**Due to Limited Seats Available, Reserve Your Seats A.S.A.P.
Don't Miss This Great Opportunity!**

Since 2000, the **Dudjom Buddhist Association (International)** has endeavored to advocate on the importance of “life and death education”. We have invited internationally-renowned scholars and experts to deliver lectures; and in certain cases, we have cooperated with relevant academic institutions. Lecture and seminar series, training programs on “life and death education”, as well as information of multi-media publications, including periodical journals, audio-visual materials and so on, are extremely lacking in the contemporary society of Hong Kong.

Due to the general lack of knowledge on “life and death education”, this will bring fears, psychological damages and/or even tragedies to both the deceased persons and their families before death. At the same time, **modern people are incapable of constructing a holistic perspective towards life, world-view, as well as spiritual quality. As a result, many family and social tragedies occurred in our society.**

The Dudjom Buddhist Association (International) appreciates the great fortune of having the encouragement and full support from both friends and the general populace. Through an open platform of fair competition, we have successfully obtained the generous sponsorship on 6th August, 2011 in the second round of the charity activity of “**Love Ideas, Love HK**”, sponsored by the “**Li Ka Shing Foundation**”. This becomes the main financial source for our continued advocacy in this year on “life and death education” in Hong Kong.

We are, indeed, most honored to be able to participate in this **profoundly meaningful** charity activity of “**Love Ideas, Love HK**”, sponsored by the “**Li Ka Shing Foundation**”, through a fair, equitable and open platform of fair competition by general voting of “one person one vote” in **selecting the different meaningful program items**, so that our whole community will be benefited from them. The program item that the Dudjom Buddhist Association (International) has been given the sponsorship is entitled simply as “**Life and Death Education**”, which belongs to the category of “education”.

For the aspect of “life education”, there are various courses that pertain to those in relations to the value-added self-hood and that of the elevation on psychological quality. Not only would these enhance one's working capability, but more importantly, these would also enhance the counsel, relief and support of one's spiritual and emotional aspects. As such, one can construct a stable, active and positive view towards life, with positive value orientations. As for the aspect of “death education”, special weight has been given to **the true understanding on the real situations and true meanings of death, as well as the mastery of the correct ways to deal with death issues**, from which one can then become more zealous towards life and its living, through one's further upgrading to have a much deeper and true cognition in the meaning of life. As a result, one can truly be living a much happier, more splendid and joyful living.



In this regard, the Dudjom Buddhist Association (International) will be holding a seminar on “life and death education” at the “Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre”, at Wan Chai, Hong Kong on 5th August, 2012 (Sunday) with the following details:

Activity: Life and Death Education Series: Seminar on “The Light of Life”

Date: 5th August, 2012 (Sunday)

Time: 2:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Venue: Meeting Room S221, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Expo Drive Entrance).

Topic: Life & Death Education Series: Seminar on “The Light of Life”

Keynote Speakers & Topics:

(1) **Ms Evelyn Elsaesser-Valarino** – Lessons From the Light: What NDEs Teach About Life and Death;

(2) **Professor Janice M. Holden** – The Role of Near-Death Experiences, Deathbed Visions, and After-Death Communication in Grief and Grief Counseling.

Fees: HK\$50; An additional fee of HK\$30 for those requiring professional simultaneous interpretation services with headphones (services available for English to be translated into Cantonese)

Short Introduction of Keynote Speakers:

(1) **Ms Evelyn Elsaesser-Valarino**

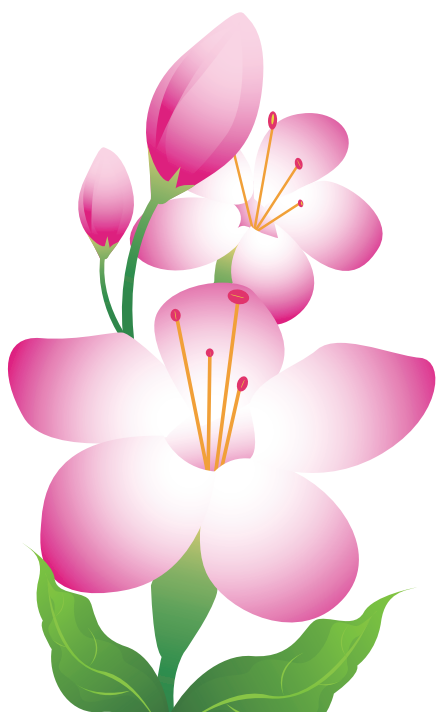


Ms. Evelyn Elsaesser-Valarino

For over thirty years, Ms. Elsaesser-Valarino has devoted much of her time to research on Near-Death Experiences (NDEs) and its after-effects, and has authored several books and articles on the topic. She frequently gives lectures in Switzerland, other European countries, and the USA, attending international conferences and regularly contributes to their collective publications and congress proceedings. She is the European coordinator of IANDS (International Association for Near-Death Studies), as well as a special advisor for international relations of the Netzwerk Nahtoderfahrung IANDS Germany,

She is also an honorary member of SEDEL (Sociedad Española para la Difusión de la Espiritualidad, that is, the Spanish Society for the Diffusion of Spirituality). She further serves as a coordinator of the Scientific and Medical Network SMN of Switzerland for many years, and is a member of the scientific committee and honorary member of INREES (Institut de Recherche sur les Expériences Extraordinaires, that is, the Research Institute for Extraordinary Experiences) in Paris.

Furthermore, her book entitled “On the Other Side of Life: Exploring the Phenomenon on the Near-Death Experience” (柳暗花明又一生, published in six languages); and another co-authored book with professor emeritus Kenneth Ring entitled “Lessons From the Light: What We Can Learn From the Near-Death Experience” (穿透生死迷思, published in ten languages) have been published by the Chinese publisher Yuan-Liou in Taipei, Taiwan.



Synopsis of Topic:

Three major aspects of the Near-Death Experience (NDE) will be presented in this talk, namely:

- (i) The **Life review** – NDErs view in three dimensions, in full color, sound, and scent and out of time, every single event of their lives. They come to understand how their actions, words, and even thoughts, have affected the persons involved in the scene they review. They gain a holistic understanding of the impact of their deeds, the ones they are proud of as well as the more negative ones, by reliving the event not only from their own perspective but also from the one of the persons involved. The life review is highly transformative and pedagogic because it confronts us with our intrinsic responsibility towards our fellow humans and entails an empathic identification with all the persons we come across during our lifetime.
- (ii) The **After-effects** of NDEs – NDEs provoke a massive and fundamental questioning of values and objectives and the way to live one's life. The major After-effects of NDEs concern the conception of life and death and self-conception, as well as social and material issues. These personality changes have heavy implications in the lives of NDErs which will be presented and analyzed.
- (iii) The **“Lessons from the Light”** – NDEs trigger a profound change in attitude and belief systems, mainly due to an encounter with a “Being of Light” which is the core experience of this phenomenon. These “Lessons from the Light” are accessible not only to NDErs but to all individuals who learn about NDEs and deepen their understanding of this transpersonal experience.

(2) Prof. Janice M. Holden



Prof. Janice M. Holden

Prof. Janice M. Holden, Ed.D., is professor of counseling, and Chair of the Department of Counseling and Higher Education at the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, USA. Her primary specialization is the transpersonal perspective in counseling, with implications on experiences that

transcend the usual limits of space and time, and their associated developmental potential. In particular, she has researched near-death experiences (NDEs), with over 30 journal articles, book chapters and numerous presentations.

Dr. Holden served six years on the Board of Directors of the International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) since 2000, and was their past President for three years. Among other major works, she authored *the Near-Death Experiences: Index to the Periodical Literature through 2005*, *the Near-Death Experiences, Part 1: Recognizing a Pleasurable Near-Death Experience*, and lead-edited *The Handbook of Near-Death Experience: Thirty Years of Investigation* (2009, Praeger), in which leading researchers in the field of near-death studies provided comprehensive, critical reviews of all NDE-related research through 2005; and serves currently as the editor of *the Journal of Near-Death Studies*. Dr. Holden is a Texas Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor, Texas Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and National Certified Counselor in the United States of America.

Synopsis of Topic:

Research on three transpersonal experiences surrounding death – **near-death experiences, deathbed visions, and after-death communication** – indicates that they are virtually always a source of comfort, reassurance, and hope to the bereaved. In this talk, Dr. Holden will define and provide examples

