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“The Art of Death Midwifery: An Introduction and Beginner’s Guide” Wins Prestigious National Book Award

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA — October 20, 2009 — *The Art of Death Midwifery: An Introduction and Beginner’s Guide*, (\$18.99, BookSurge Publishing, April 2009) the first book from interfaith minister and Doctor of Divinity, Joellyn St. Pierre, has just won the **National Best Books 2009 Awards** in the category of death and dying.

In this groundbreaking work, St. Pierre guides anyone wishing to experience a more profound, reverent, dignified and transformational death with techniques inspired from her many years in service to the dying.

This cutting edge guide creates for the first time in Western culture, a technique for those wishing to support the souls of the dying in crossing from this life into the next. It offers a step by step manual for preparing oneself to navigate various levels of consciousness in order to commune with the dying, even those considered by the medical community to be “unresponsive.” In *The Art of Deathmidwifery: An Introduction and Beginner’s Guide*, St. Pierre, a former Broadway performing artist, uses her extensive background as a singer, dancer and actress to bring beauty, awe, peace and the opportunity for transformation back to this most mysterious transition. St. Pierre offers fascinating case studies and personal insights that will help anyone either working with the dying or perhaps facing their own transition to:

- Create and maintain sacred space for the person dying
- Understand the deathing spectrum and its variations in consciousness
- Empowering the dying to make their transition gracefully and with dignity
- Alleviate the fear and anxiety surrounding this most awe-filled transition

This poetic and moving manual steps beyond what has been traditionally offered in the field of death and dying education. It stresses the fact that the quality of consciousness of those supporting the dying actually affects and contributes directly to the dying’s experience. Just sitting with the dying is not enough: being fully present is a gift and a service of great price requiring consciousness, discipline and practice.

“I was like most of us in this Western culture until the death my of dearest friend and musical partner: terrified by and in denial of death. The experience at his bedside, a tragic yet hauntingly beautiful experience, changed my life forever and I was driven to study everything I could about death. Ultimately, I learned at the bedside of those dying - strangers, friends and family, for more than 18 years. What I discovered is that my focused, loving and non-judgmental presence could not only forge a sacred bond with the dying...but could also actively affect their transitions in a positive manner. The Eastern mystics have studied death for centuries but the Western mind hasn’t had a handbook for guiding the souls of the dying through their journey. This method which I call “The Art of Death Midwifery,” can be learned by anyone with the discipline and dedication to do so. The book lays out the technique, step by step, so that those called to this path of service can walk the liminal space between worlds with great consciousness to serve the dying.”

Joellyn St. Pierre, D.Div. left a theatrical career of over 25 years to follow the path chosen for her, that of a spiritual death midwife. She’s had the honor to serve the dying in AIDS organizations, hospices, home health organizations and hospitals across the nation since 1991. Her ministry, Create Sacred Space for Conscious Transitions, is dedicated to educating the dying and those called to this path of service, to meet death with great consciousness.

The Art of Death Midwifery: An Introduction and Beginner's Guide (\$18.99, 272 pages, 8.9 x 5.9x 0.8 inches, paperback, ISBN 10: 1439229066, ISBN 13: 978 1439229064) is available from Amazon, BookSurge, Alibris and Abebooks. For more information please visit www.theartofdeathmidwifery.com.