

TENDING TO OUR HUMANITY AT THE HEART OF THE CONVERSATION WITH RON HOFFMAN

A Program in Brookline's Town-wide Initiative, Hello! – The Dialogue Starts Here:



Saturday, November 4th, 2017

**Talk & Discussion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Reception at 12:00 p.m.
at Goddard House Assisted Living, 165 Chestnut Street, Brookline, MA**

Join us for a talk and discussion with Ron Hoffman, founder and director of Compassionate Care ALS in West Falmouth, MA. Ron is author of *Sacred Bullet*, a memoir about the art of living through catastrophic circumstances.

Ron has worked for the past 20 years tending to over a thousand individuals, families, and communities living with Lou Gehrig's Disease. He facilitates intimate discussions for those engaged in the complexities of living with a catastrophic illness, including the process of death and dying. His own experience with such material began at the age of 10, when he was nearly killed from a bullet wound in the back. He began to appreciate, as a boy, the power of a practice he calls "showing up".

Showing up means not being attached to an outcome or trying to fix a problem. Rather, it asks us to simply listen, with awareness and presence. Showing up is a conscious decision to be with whatever is currently true. For Ron, it also means physically showing up at the door of people's homes, just like the old-fashioned doctor who made house calls with a medicine bag. Ron doesn't carry a stethoscope in his little black bag, instead bringing the medicine of the heart, procured through decades of tending to the terminally ill. These are the tools he uses to guide individuals and families through this last chapter of life, by helping them live it with grace. Ron works to share his principles by offering trainings to nursing students and hospice and health care professionals around the country.

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