



Signature Sunsets

Initiatives To Advance Learning About End of Life

During this month's brief hiatus marked by a reduction in programming, consider spending downtime reading articles and books or listening to podcasts.

Suggestions:

"Let's Talk About Death: From end-of-life care to burials and beyond, we answer your questions on mortality," Amanda Schupak, *New York Times*, July 17, 2025

A comprehensive collection of answers to common questions, with an opportunity to submit your own questions at the end.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/well/death-dying-burials-planning-end-of-life-care.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

Explore subjects introduced by Dr. Karen Wyatt through interviews with specialists, as well as her books.

In this half-hour overview, she encapsulates the main focal points from some of her interviews conducted during the past year:



Highlights of 2024: The Best of the Best with Karen Wyatt MD

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmyG8GrpVGA

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

August 6, 6:30-7:30 pm EDT

The Art of Goodbye: German Expressionism

The focus will be on German Expressionist artists of the early twentieth century who confronted the turmoil of their time—war, social upheaval, and existential dread—by rejecting traditional beauty in favor of distorted forms, bold colors, and provocative imagery.

The Art of Goodbye is a series that explores how artists have depicted loss throughout history. From ancient Greek funerary urns to medieval crucifixion altar pieces and haunting World War I trench scenes, the programs delve into how different eras confronted grief. Each session highlights the artists, their works, and the societies that shaped or resisted these expressions of sorrow.

Free. Registration required:

<https://www.green-wood.com/event/the-art-of-goodbye-german-expressionism/>

August 14, 7:30-9:30 pm EDT

“It’s Complicated” Support Group

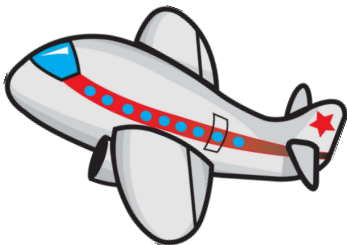
A monthly peer-led online group for people who had a strained relationship with someone who’s died. It can be tough to be in a group with other folks who were close with their parent, sibling, grandparent, partner, co-parent, friend, etc. Sometimes it is nice to be with people who “get it.” When addiction, mental health challenges, conflict, estrangement, abuse, etc. were a part of the picture, it can affect the grief journey in unique ways.

<https://talkdeath.com/event/its-complicated-support-group-2/2025-08-14/>

Nominal fee. Registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJJbKKWr7LYbZwWGUVCzdRdxkYf5kc57TyEQ_UKbhjGZIOrg/viewform

A TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY... or Online



August 27-31, 2025



International Association of Near-death Studies Conference

Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center
3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook (Chicago area), IL

The International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) is an educational nonprofit devoted to unraveling the mysteries of near-death experiences and related phenomena. We research NDEs, help guide experiencers toward compassionate support, and work tirelessly toward educating the public about NDEs.

Millions of people around the world who were clinically dead or came close to dying have reported similar experiences. They describe them in remarkably consistent terms, incredibly detailed, and vivid, suggesting a shared underlying phenomenon. Common manifestations are tunnels of light, encounters with deceased loved ones (even pets), spiritual beings, religious figures, or unfamiliar figures, out-of-body experiences (like watching resuscitation efforts on themselves or accounts of conversations elsewhere while they were unconscious), and more.

Conference presenters: <https://conference.iands.org/2025-speakers/>

Registration: <https://conference.iands.org/>

Options (variable fees):

- Online - 4-Day Live Stream
- Single Day Ticket
- Full 4-Day Conference

All registrations include video replay access for 180 days.



2025 IANDS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	EARLY BIRD UNTIL JULY 25th!	REGULAR JULY 26- AUG 31
	Member/Non-Member	Member/Non-Member
FULL 4-DAY CONFERENCE In person Thursday through Sunday	\$356 / \$404	\$436 / \$484
SINGLE DAY TICKET In person by day Thurs, Fri, Sat, or Sun	\$99 / \$134	\$119 / \$164
LIVE STREAM Online Thursday through Sunday	\$149 / \$184	\$179 / \$214

FUN Holidays That Inspire FUNerary Applications

Ideas for Commemorative Services

~ August 2: National Clown Day ~

An event can be uniquely personalized by featuring a group in which the decedent had participated.

Norman Thompson of Bellefontaine, Ohio, was a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a clown, "Boppo." For fifteen years he had been a member of the Antioch Shrine Funster Clown Unit, "helping to cheer children who were hospitalized with burns. 'Willie,' the boss clown, explained that laying him to rest in their costumes was the greatest honor his fellow clowns could pay him, but that it was only done at the request of the deceased and their family. In Boppo's case, all 8 pallbearers wore their big shoes."

POST: QUIGLEY'S CABINET (Chris Quigley)





~ August 16: Tell A Joke Day ~

Will glass coffins be a success? Remains to be seen.

Being cremated is my last hope for a smokin' hot body.

I came across an advertisement for burial plots, and it occurred to me that it was the last thing I needed.

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. The details are sketchy.

“According to most studies, people’s number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you’re better off in the casket than doing the eulogy.” -Bob Monkhouse

~ August 7: National Lighthouse Day ~

Think of the imagery a lighthouse can inspire. For anyone whose affinity for the sea was a hallmark feature of life, this earmark structure could present an opportunity for a meaningful commemorative affair. Associative ties are readily recognizable through symbolic associations with the individual's persona... radiance, endurance, reliability, guidance, and a beacon for others' benefit are only a few of the possibilities. The beauty and serenity of a coastal environment would enhance the effect.

Of course, if gathering at an actual seaside site, practical considerations, such as accessibility and weather conditions, parking, seating, bathroom facilities, and necessary permits would dictate feasibility. A secondary, backup plan might have to be factored into arrangements, dependent on weather conditions.



Regardless of location, a themed service could incorporate lighthouse- or ocean-oriented components, perhaps through readings, music, programs, keepsakes for the guests, and food selections for a reception.



~ Chef Greeley ~



"There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone the light remains."⁷

~ Leigh Standley ~

General Funerary Information

~ August 25: National Park Service Day ~

There are more than four hundred national parks in the United States. Some folks may be surprised to learn that scattering of cremated remains is generally permissible within their boundaries. However, stipulations specific to each location dictate the practice and must be understood before proceeding.

<https://www.funeralbasics.org/guide-scattering-ashes-national-parks/>

Guidelines relate to permits, acceptable locations within the park, privacy, manner of dispersal, and avoidance of permanent structures or memorial items of any sort.

Each park has its own paperwork to be completed, so review the website of the one that's preferred. Forms can be filled out online.

Allow thirty days for processing. Permit is sent by mail and is to be carried when scattering. Though there is no charge for scattering, there is apt to be a fee for the permit.

If unable to visit the site, there are enterprises that do the scattering for families.

Guidelines for scattering in a national park:

<https://www.nps.gov/arch/planyourvisit/memorialization.htm>



*Angel's Landing at Zion National Park is one of many locations that allow the scattering of cremation ashes with a permit
Credit: zionnationalpark.com*

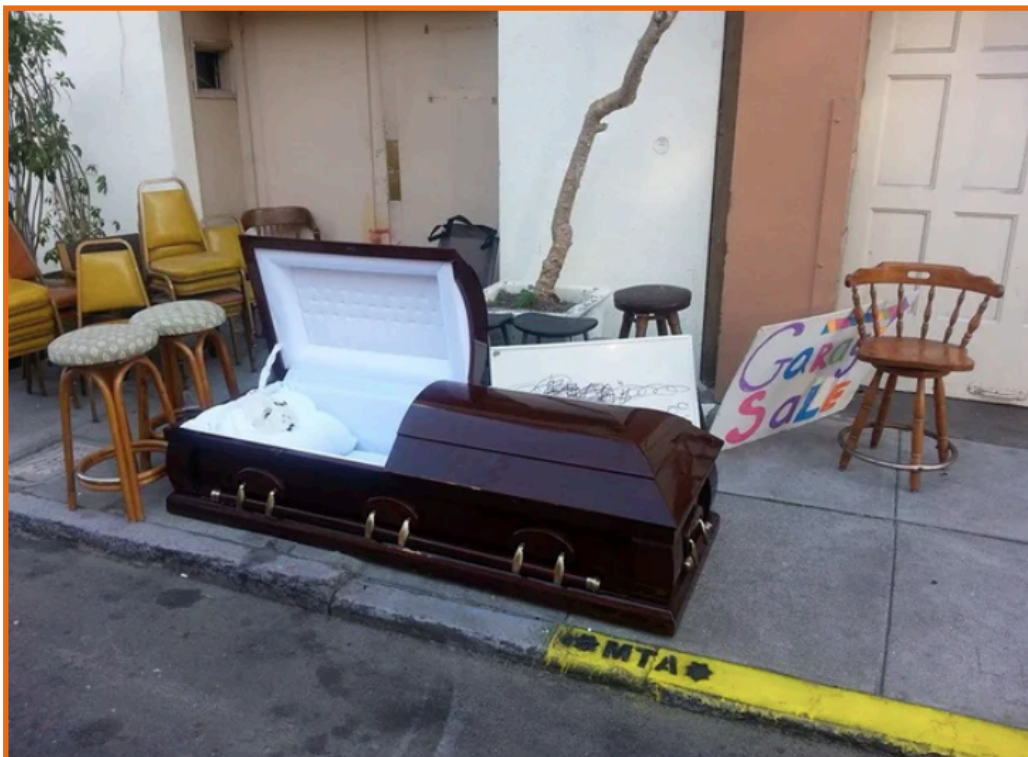
Food for Thought: What Do You Think?

~ August 9: National Garage Sale Day ~

Would you buy a casket at a garage sale?



~ Reddit (r/pic fontizmo)... "Garage sale in San Francisco. Coffin for \$100." ~



~ Arnold Pressley, via Sanford and Son post ~



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