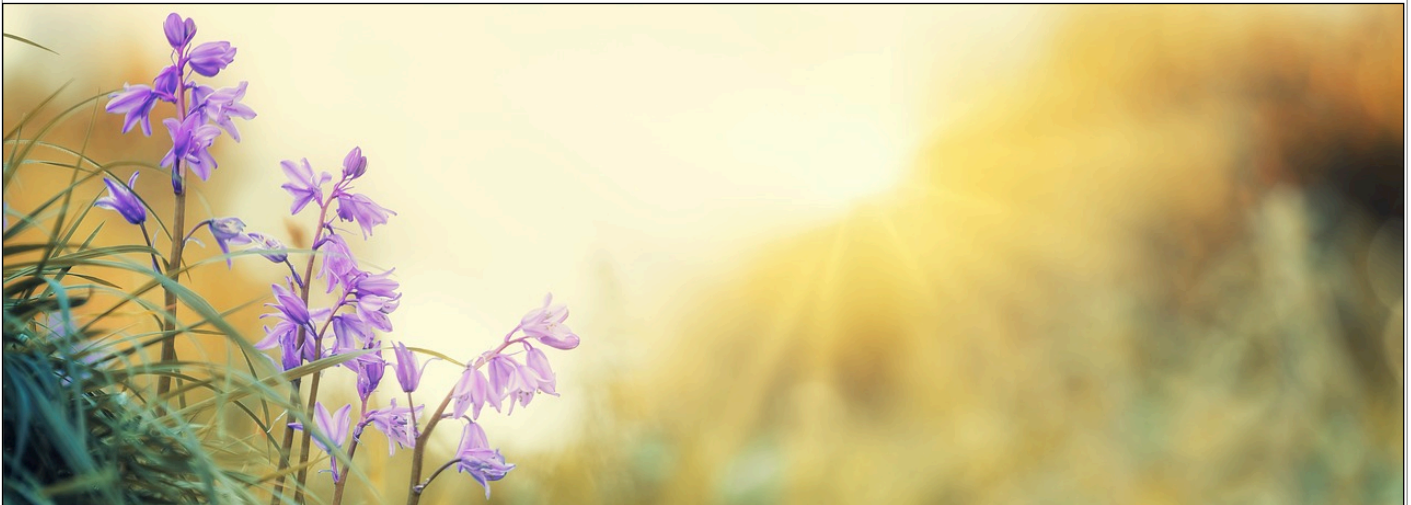


# SIGNATURE SUNSETS

## Initiatives To Advance Learning About End of Life



### POINTS of INTEREST

#### World Ocean Day

**June 8**

Several companies incorporate cremated remains in artificial reefs, providing a way to memorialize loved ones while also supporting marine ecosystems. Companies such as Eternal Reefs, Resting Reef, and Memorial Reefs International create structures by mixing cremated remains with environmentally friendly concrete. The reef is placed in a designated ocean location, often with the help of local marine organizations and authorities. Families can participate in preparation and placements.

### UPCOMING ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

#### Sunset Cafeteria

**Tuesday June 17, 7:00-8:15 pm EDT**

Like a death cafe, but with a predetermined topic to spark the conversation...

Hosted by Mary Ellen, from Rochester, NY

#### **“Just Put Me in the Ground Without Any Fuss or Fanfare.”**

Honor and Obey  
or Choose A Different Way?

Funerals, memorial services, religious traditions, and rituals have been staples of a death's immediate aftermath. They bring together a community of mourners to acknowledge their loss and share their grief, bolstering one another through comforting measures and support.

<https://www.eternalreefs.com/>  
<https://restingreef.co.uk/>  
<https://memorialreefs.international/>



Eternal Reefs  
A personalized creation

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Sewing Machine Day**

**June 13**

At a funeral home, certainly it's fairly routine to find antique people, or at least their vestigial shells that carried them through a long life. But one doesn't ordinarily walk into such an establishment and immediately sense the likeness of an antique shop.



But, more and more, people are declaring a wish to have their bodies promptly dispositioned, forgoing public gatherings and ceremonial events. This burgeoning trend may leave bereaved life companions feeling a void of neglect... the absence of an important step toward healing.

What is the appropriate response to fulfilling a loved one's wishes when that person is no longer around as a witness? Is it more important to act in accordance with stated intention or to address personal needs of life companions that may conflict?

Food for Thought:

<https://www.agingcare.com/questions/what-do-you-do-when-your-parent-does-not-want-a-funeral-obituary-or-celebration-of-life-472307.htm>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85396073152>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Volunteer Circles for Home & Community Post-death Care Wednesday June 25, 7:00-8:00 pm EDT**

(with up to an additional 15 min. as desired)

- \* What constitutes a "Community-based Care Circle"
- \* An overview and examples of volunteer teams nationally
- \* Efforts to create a locally based care circle to assist in a home or community setting
- \* Ways you can get involved and help create volunteer care circles to meet the needs of local families

Featuring Joyce Maxner and Beth Kramer, of the newly established volunteer group, Martha's Vineyard Volunteer Community After Death Care Circle. An exploration of the general concept coupled with local efforts to create an option for in-home support and care, conceived and delivered among neighbors and friends.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86936581392>

\*\*\*\*\*

In 2015 someone entering the Farley Funeral Home in Venice, Florida would have seen multiple remnants of the past in an area akin to a living room decorated with antique furnishings. The owners capitalized on an opportunity to share treasured relics with the ongoing stream of individuals passing through their facilities.



Among them was a vintage sewing machine, upon which information about each dated item in the funeral home was maintained in a loose-leaf binder chock full of pages documenting descriptive details. All of the objects were categorized according to the rooms in which they were located.

Excerpt from a blog article:  
"Old Time Revival," May, 2015

<https://signaturesunsets.blogspot.com/2015/05/funeral-home-antiques-stationary-and.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

ONLINE

### Asian American Journey of Grieving Workshop: Part Two

**Thursday, June 12, 7:00-8:00 pm EDT**

Grief is universal, but there are dynamics and nuances that can be specific to cultural identities and experiences. In this online workshop series, Kimberly Hong, a palliative care clinical social worker, will facilitate learning about the Asian American journey of grief, exploring community support, and considering different coping strategies when grieving.

Topics to be covered include:

- Identifying and applying common themes in Asian American grieving
- Learning about common Asian cultural rituals around end of life
- Understanding and applying ways of coping, including narrative therapy

This workshop is geared towards Asian Americans and those who are interested in understanding the Asian American experience and grieving.

Attendance from the first session is not required to attend the second session.

Kimberly Hong, a licensed social worker, graduated from NYU Silver School of Social Work and completed a post-master's fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Currently a palliative care social worker at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center, working with patients and families, as well as a private practice therapist.

#### Registration

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Dr8LBwyEQNCB1zSjgSSHRw#/registration>

\*\*\*\*\*



## National Pink Day

**June 23**

A memorial reflection excerpted from a *Mixed Metaphors* blog:

“My mother’s favorite color was pink. I grew up in a home in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s that boasted a curvaceous coral pink sectional couch. Our bathroom was always painted pink, with bubble gum pink towels, little pink perfumed soaps, and plastic pink flowers. Mom always dressed in pink, including the day we buried her. At the visitation, our family wore pink in her memory; pink flower sprays adorned her white casket and flanked her like honor guard sentries. When family members returned home after the funeral service and burial — the sky was resplendent in pink — a message from our mother wishing us safe travels.”



Mom’s Pink & Blue Sunset

<https://www.mixedmetaphorshmy.com/2017/01/29/marching-mourning-the-meaning-of-it-all/>

## **Jewish Perspectives on Rituals of Death and Mourning**

**Thursday, June 12, 9:00-10:30 pm EDT**



Jewish tradition prescribes a fixed set of rituals from just before a death, through the first week, month and year after, and annually beyond that. These rituals are designed to both honor the dead and comfort the mourners.

What are these rituals, and how do they support the process of grieving? Join Dr. Gila Silverman as we explore Jewish rituals through the lenses of ancient text, modern psychology, and lived experience.

### **Registration:**

<https://rootsandroads.org/jewish-perspectives/>

\*\*\*\*\*

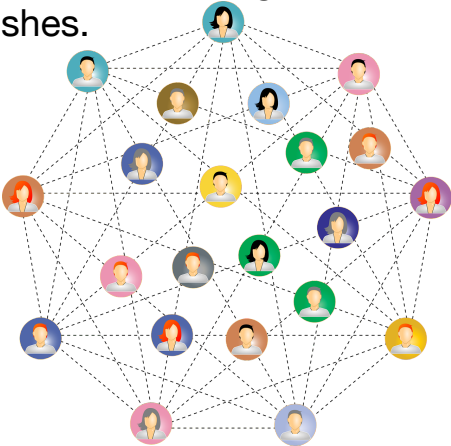
\*\*\*\*\*

## Social Media Day

**June 30**

“Each social media platform has its own rules for dealing with the accounts of deceased users, ranging from permanent deletion to transforming accounts into places for mourning and memory.”

Actions can be taken while alive to make sure one's accounts are handled according to one's wishes.



**Facebook** offers two options... either close the account permanently or convert it into a memorial account where loved ones can share memories. The platform allows you to designate a "Legacy Contact" — someone who can manage your memorialized account.

**Instagram** also allows accounts to be either memorialized or permanently deleted. A memorialized Instagram account will display a "Remembering" label and will not appear in public spaces like the "Explore" section.

**IN PERSON**

## **Eco-fair and Brighton Farmers' Market**

**Sunday, June 22, 9:00 am-1:00 pm**

Brighton High School parking lot and grounds



Visit the Funeral Consumers Alliance table for information about natural organic reduction (human composting), green burial, alkaline hydrolysis, and even subjects that aren't green.



Amid the music and festivity, meet **Dr. Murana Fossile**, who will answer all of your earthly questions.



**TikTok** does not offer a memorialization option. Family members or legal representatives can request deactivation. The account is permanently removed once the request is processed.

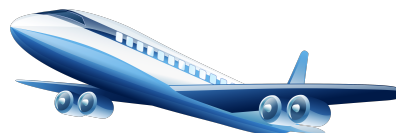
**X** (formerly known as Twitter) does not provide a memorialization option. Family can close the account after death.

**YouTube** offers a proactive feature called the Inactive Account Manager. This allows you to set instructions for your account if you become inactive for a specified period. You can also choose to have your data shared with trusted contacts or have the account deleted.

**LinkedIn** focuses on maintaining a professional network and so does not offer account memorialization. Immediate family members or colleagues can request to remove a deceased member's profile

<https://lawmother.com/what-happens-to-your-social-media-account-when-you-die/>

\*\*\*\*\*



## 2025 FCA Biennial Conference – The Cost of Goodbye: Confronting Funeral Poverty in Our Communities

**June 26 - June 29**

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Raleigh Durham Research Triangle  
201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard, Cary, NC

The Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) invites you to join us for our 2025 Biennial Conference: “The Cost of Goodbye: Confronting Funeral Poverty in Our Communities,” a gathering that addresses the urgent challenges of funeral poverty and indigent burial. Taking place from June 26–29, 2025, this event brings together experts, advocates, and community leaders committed to ensuring equitable access to end-of-life care and services.

Keynote Speaker: Pamela Prickett, co-author of *The Unclaimed: Abandonment and Hope in the City of Angels*.

Multiple speakers plus visits to an alkaline hydrolysis facility and Bluestem conservation cemetery green burial site.

### Registration:

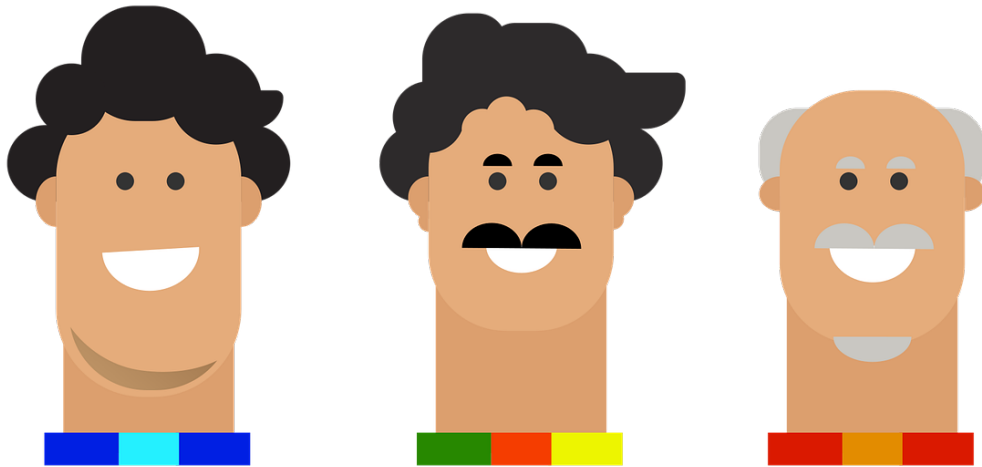
<https://talkdeath.com/event/2025-fca-biennial-conference-the-cost-of-goodbye-confronting-funeral-poverty-in-our-communities/>



[funerals.org](https://funerals.org)

Email: [fca@funerals.org](mailto:fca@funerals.org)

# Father's Day: June 15



"Whether you love every aspect of your dad or you are still healing from past hurts, you may want to take time to honor his memory if he has already died. For some, this will be an exercise of joyful remembrance, and for others, it will be part of a series of healing actions that may bring reconciliation to life-long hurts. Wherever you're at on the spectrum, here are 10 ways you can honor your dad's memory that will help you heal and move forward."

1. Engage in an activity you enjoyed together
2. Enjoy his favorite food or beverage
3. Send him a message
4. Participate in a memorial action
5. Take a trip to a place he always wanted to go
6. Reminisce with others (or on your own)
7. Create keepsake items
8. Post on social media
9. Restore an item
10. Host a remembrance event





MARY ELLEN MARKANT

*Signature Sunsets*

<https://www.signaturesunsets.com>

[ponderingleaves@gmail.com](mailto:ponderingleaves@gmail.com)